



BETA XI, INC.

P.O. Box 6688

Moraga, CA 94570-6688

March 31, 2020

BROTHERS OF BETA-XI:

As President of the House Corporation I wish to bring you current as to our chapter at Cal. Much has transpired during the past two years and I firmly believe that we are headed in the right direction. As you are aware, the University on two occasions suspended recruitment and other activities and Kappa Sigma National twice revoked our charter. During this time, we have run the Warring Street facility as a rooming house and given the student housing shortage at Berkeley, we have experienced full occupancy. Thanks to our property managers, the facility is fully occupied, and we enjoy a meager profit on an annual basis that over the years has become a very comfortable reserve.

Kappa Sigma National has expressed a great interest in recolonizing a Kappa Sigma Chapter back at Cal. The University has supported such as well. However, with COVID-19 we all will watch for the right timing. In the meantime, from the House Corporation's perspective, the issues are volunteerism and whether Headquarters/National has its own proper regional staffing in place for a successful chartering effort. To that point, Brother Beau Kent is our Kappa Sigma District Grand Master (DGM) for the Bay Area. He is a University of Colorado (Boulder) 2008 graduate with a masters from Stanford. He has an engineering background and works for a large construction firm in San Francisco. We have met with him and find him to be a very good fit for our region and chapter. He and staff from Headquarters will be spearheading almost all aspects of the recruitment and re-chartering.

In our corner will be the task of volunteerism. Success in 2020 and beyond will require that we as alums fill several roles. Best practices indicate that a committed group of advisors, house corporation directors, and mentors are essential in developing a chapter that succeeds with academics, campus & chapter involvement, career preparation, leadership development, recruitment, service and a safe social environment.

In this regard we are putting together a core group of alumni to research and brainstorm all avenues of opportunity to create a thriving and sustainable Kappa Sigma chapter at Cal. Such a core group would comprise 5 or 6 alumni primarily from the 70's through the 2000's. To give you an idea of what the parameters of consideration are, I submit the following as a small portion of what will be on the table:

- 1) Developing our vision and goals that will drive all decision making.
- 2) Decide at what point we will return the Chapter House to the undergraduates.
- 3) Develop a career preparation program that includes a focus on soft skills & leadership development, alumni career mentors, career panels, presentations by alumni & employers, and some career networking events.
- 4) Focus on the following: academic support & success, career preparation & networking, engaged members on campus & in the chapter, public relations (alumni, campus, community & parent's relations), philanthropy & service to the community, successful recruitment, ritually certified members, and a safe social environment.
- 5) Host periodic get togethers between alumni, faculty, and undergraduate members to demonstrate to the University that life in a fraternity is much more than a social fulfillment.
- 6) Host annual alumni gatherings in the Bay Area as well as in other regions in California.
- 7) Start a Hall of Fame where we recognize alumni for success in their careers and/or for service to the campus and/or community and/or fraternity.
- 8) Consider employment of a graduate student or other full-time person as a live-in Property Manager/Resident Advisor who will help us create a great living-learning environment in the Chapter House.



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- 9) Develop stronger campus partnerships with Academic Support, Admissions, Alumni Association, Campus Health & Wellness, Campus Police, Career Office, Greek Life, and Parent Association.
- 10) Require that the chapter house be an alcohol-free environment and recommend that all social events with alcohol be held at 3rd party, licensed establishments.
- 11) Consider an alumni-undergraduate mentor program that will mostly take place by email, phone call, video chat, and text, as well as an annual get together for those that can attend.
- 12) Consider how alumni can play a stronger role with recruitment, even if technology plays a strong role in this.
- 13) Employ applicable technology in creating a sense of identity between chapter members and alumni.
- 14) Consider a Beta-Xi Alumni Association independent of the House Corporation.
- 15) Consider a chapter scholarship program that will help with recruitment and recognizing our members who are good students who are engaged on campus and in the chapter.

Several other national fraternities have also gone through the process of re-establishing, and their new ideas and fresh approaches to what it means to be a fraternity at Berkeley, and how they are responding to the above issues, are exciting and challenging.

Brother Whitney Skala (Beta-Xi 1976) has already undertaken some of the groundwork on the above list. As you can imagine, the foregoing can't be accomplished without alumni support. We fully recognize that there are a lot of competing needs for your time. This is why we are looking at developing varying levels of involvement for alumni based on their time availability. This might mean as little as an hour per year, to an hour per month, to as much as a few hours per week. What is needed is that we develop a fraternity that provides value to alumni, parents and undergraduates. Our alumni are Cal graduates. We are smart and successful. Certainly, we can develop a fraternity that is a national role model. Given what is before us as a nation, this is the time to step forward and make a Kappa Sigma Chapter at Cal the hallmark of a college education.

We will be re-developing our Beta-Xi website; updating contact information; communicating with you more often; and planning events for you to participate in. When our core group has completed our initial goals and objectives lists, we will be in touch with you and hopefully expand our alumni participation. When our goals and objectives have been further defined, we would like to hold a meeting of interested and concerned alumni to help further define such and to implement the support and participation that we so vitally need.

Please go to <https://calkappasigma.org/alumni-profile-update> page on our website to update your contact information and share your interest in Beta-Xi events and other programs.

Thank you and yours fraternally and AEKDB,

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