

Rider University Allegations, Violations, and Reports of Hazing Statistics 2016 - 2021

2016

No reported hazing incidents

2017

Organization: **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.**

Date of Allegations: Fall 2017

Description of Allegations: Allegations of hazing and misconduct during the new member process.

Facts: During the Fall 2017 semester, the Rider University Department of Public Safety interviewed students affiliated with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. following allegations of hazing. After an intensive investigation by the Department of Public Safety, there was no conclusive evidence to support the allegations. A concurrent investigation with chapter members at The College of New Jersey found those students responsible, and the chapter was closed for a minimum of 5 years. As a result, Rider began the process of chartering a new chapter of the organization and students were directed to no longer have contact with TCNJ Kappas.

Investigation Findings: No conclusive evidence of hazing of new members. However, the University learned of information regarding new member education to be addressed.

Date of Resolution: October 4, 2017

2018

Organization: **Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.**

Date of Allegations: Spring 2018

Description of Allegations: Allegations of hazing and misconduct during the new member process.

Facts: During the Spring 2018 semester, the Rider University Department of Public Safety interviewed students affiliated with Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. following allegations of hazing. After an intensive investigation by the Department of Public Safety and the Coordinator for Fraternity and Sorority Life, there was no conclusive evidence to support the allegations. The chapter was allowed to initiate its new members and resume normal activities.

Investigation Findings: No conclusive evidence of hazing of new members.

Date of Resolution: Summer 2018

2019

Organization: **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.**

Date of Allegations: October 30, 2019

Description of Allegations: Allegations of hazing and misconduct during the new member process including sleep deprivation and physical harm of new members.

Facts: During the Fall 2019 semester, the Rider University Department of Public Safety interviewed students affiliated with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. following several allegations of hazing that were reported anonymously by phone and email. After an intensive investigation by the Department of Public Safety in partnership with the Office of Student Involvement, no conclusive evidence was found supporting the allegations, and the chapter was allowed to resume normal operations under the guidance of the Office of Student Involvement. Although the chapter was found not responsible, the chapter was placed on an action plan which included more oversight of chapter operations and processes by the Fraternity and Sorority Life staff and the chapter's graduate advisors.

Investigation Findings: No conclusive evidence of hazing of new members.

Actions Taken: Chapter placed on an action plan for 1 year by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Date of Resolution: November 14th, 2019

Organization: **Phi Sigma Sigma**

Date of Allegations: November 2019

Description of Allegations: Allegations of bullying and issues of seniority in relation to new members.

Facts: In November 2019, the Coordinator for Student Involvement and staff advisor to Phi Sigma Sigma received an email complaint from a member of Phi Sigma Sigma that the student was disaffiliating because of practices in the chapter that were objectionable to her. Public Safety was notified and an investigation was commenced. Public Safety interviewed the disaffiliated student, additional current members, and three chapter leaders. It was determined that the three leaders were abusing their power and bullying incoming members. In addition, it was determined that new members were being deliberately and unreasonably delayed in receiving their letters. The Chapter agreed to work with the Office of Student Involvement to create an action plan. In addition, three members were internally disaffiliated from membership by the chapter via their headquarters.

Investigation Findings: The organization was found not responsible.

Actions taken: 1) Three members were disaffiliated by the organization's National Headquarters; 2) Chapter placed on an action plan for 1 year by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Date of Resolution: December 2019

2020

Organization: **Delta Phi Epsilon**

Date of Allegations: February 15, 2020

Description of Allegations: Allegations of hazing and misconduct towards new members, including sleep deprivation and bullying.

Facts: In February, 2020, the Coordinator for Fraternity and Sorority Life sent an email message to Public Safety that a community member wanted to report Delta Phi Epsilon sorority for hazing. An investigation was opened by the Department of Public Safety. The Greek Council president was interviewed and said that new members were being pressured into consuming excessive alcohol, and this is why four new members dropped out of the process. Four new members who wished to remain anonymous gave statements that their "Pledge Mom" made new members stay in the house until midnight and forced some members to wear antlers during house events. The Department of Public Safety recommended to the Office of Community Standards that the chapter of Delta Phi epsilon sorority be charged formally with Section 2.6, "Hazing" from the Student Code of Social Conduct. The Director of Community Standards formally charged the chapter and met with the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority president, who took responsibility for the conduct on behalf of the sorority.

Investigation Findings: The organization was found responsible through the student conduct process.

Sanctions: 1) Suspension of one member by the organization's National Headquarters, 2) The Chapter worked with their National Headquarters to conduct a reorganization and re-education within the Rider Chapter to further identify members of concern; 3)The chapter facilitated a presentation on Risk Management and Conflict resolution; 4) Chapter members completed a total of 40 hours of community restitution; 5)The chapter submitted an Action Plan to the Fraternity and Sorority Life staff/placed on a corrective action plan for one year.

Date of Resolution: May 6, 2020

2021

Organization: **Kappa Alpha Psi**

Date of Allegations: September 16, 2021

Description of Allegations: Allegations of hazing in new member processes, including physical beating, and sleep and food deprivation.

Facts: During the Fall 2021 semester, the Rider University Department of Public Safety and Office of Student Involvement interviewed current members and potential new members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. after receiving several allegations of hazing. After an intensive investigation by the aforementioned parties, it was determined that there was significant evidence of hazing, including physical beating and sleep deprivation.

Investigation Findings: It was determined that there was significant evidence of hazing, including physical beating and sleep deprivation.

Sanctions: The University took administrative action to suspend the chapter for three years.

Date of Resolution: October 15, 2021,