

DATE: Monday, April 6, 2020

TO: All Chapter Officers and Advisors

FROM: Victoria Stankus, Director of Fraternity Services

SUBJECT: Pyramid Program 2019-2020 updates in lieu of COVID-19 Health Crisis

As we all continue to navigate these unprecedented times, we at Delta Sigma Phi HQ have been so impressed and thankful for the efforts of each and every one of our undergraduate chapters. You continue to inspire us with your creativity, flexibility, and acts of brotherhood. We are equally encouraged and optimistic about our brotherhood during this time as our Chapter Support team has heard that many chapters are still working towards achieving a Pyramid of Excellence and/or Chapter of Distinction Award through the Pyramid Program.

Given the fact that all of our chapter's host institutions have moved to online learning during this time, we understand that aspects of the Pyramid Program may not be able to be completed and/or may not be able to be completed in the manner that chapters intended. We acknowledge that some of our chapters have worked diligently to complete the program as is and we want to honor the work that they've done by holding true to the best practices that we've outlined in the Pyramid Program. We do want to be fair and give credit to those chapters who did have events, programs, etc. planned between mid-March and May as well.

When we made edits to the Pyramid Program for the current academic year, we listened to your feedback and spread out the submission of content throughout the academic year, included more chapter officers to be responsible for submitting necessary materials, and added templates and forms for easier submission. As of mid-March, most items for the Pyramid Program were due. We recognize that other items were due by June 1, and those items we do want to be more lenient with. We will be sure to work with each chapter who wishes to be recognized on a case by case basis.

To help guide you in receiving recognition for your chapter's work for the 2019-2020 academic year, we'd like to provide you with an updated look at the Pyramid Program. Here are the changes you can expect to see:

a. Overall Program

- a. The Pyramid Program still serves as a mechanism by which college chapters can elect to submit information regarding their programs, chapter operations, etc. in order to be recognized by the National Fraternity for their stellar work.
- b. Program submission is still not mandatory, and chapters are not penalized for not completing the program. However, there are financial incentives for chapters who do receive a Pyramid of Excellence award.
- c. If your chapter has missed any deadline in the Pyramid Program, we ask that you please still submit the necessary documentation. If you need assistance in filling out the documentation, please contact your Chapter Support Coordinator.

b. Updates to Chapter Operations

- a. **Chapter Meetings:** Chapters will receive 1 point if they had fifteen chapter meetings that meet quorum annually (essential operations). Chapters will receive 2 points if they had twenty chapter meetings that meet quorum annually (improved operations). There will be no “higher performing operations” criteria for chapter meetings for this academic year.
- b. **Chapter Reports:** R&A Form – so long as your chapter submitted the R&A Form in the Fall, you will not need to complete the form again until Fall 2020.

c. Updates to Culture

- a. **Career Development:** Please submit the form as usual. If you had a career development workshop planned and were unable to execute the workshop, please submit proof that you had the event scheduled. (Proof can be an email exchange with the facilitator of the program confirming they will facilitate the program)
- b. **New Member Education:**
 - i. GreekLifeEdu for Fall 2019 will be counted. Since GreekLifeEdu was discontinued in the Spring 2020, we will not penalize those who did not complete the program.
 - ii. Since the Fraternity has made New Member Education modules available online, chapters that participate and/or hold their own new member modules in Spring 2020 will receive credit.
- c. **Prevention Programming:** Please submit the form as usual. If you had a prevention program planned and were unable to execute the program, please submit proof that you had the event scheduled. (Proof can be an email exchange with the facilitator of the program confirming they will facilitate the program)

d. Updates to Harmony

- a. **Campus Involvement:** If your chapter planned to participate and/or host at least one event with a non-fraternity/sorority student organization or campus department, please submit the form as usual. Again, please provide proof that the event was scheduled.
- b. **Community Support:** If the chapter planned to host and/or participate in a service and/or fundraising event, please submit proof that the chapter was planning to attend. (Proof can be an email exchange with organization you were planning to volunteer for, etc.)

e. Updates to Friendship

- a. **Recruitment:** If your chapter was unable to recruit or complete the recruitment process in Spring 2020, so long as you submitted your recruitment plan (essential operations – 1 point) or submitted your recruitment plan and actively used ChapterBuilder (improved operations – 2 points), you will get the full 2 points.
- b. **Ritual:** Attendance percentages for Initiation in Spring 2020 will not be considered for the Pyramid Program.
- c. **Social & Brotherhood Events:** If your chapter planned to participate and/or host a brotherhood and/or social event, please submit the form as usual. Again, please provide proof that the event was scheduled.

We know how important it is to recognize the good work of our chapters, and our chapters deserve a fair recognition system that is based in best practices. We are eager to know how we can support and serve you during this time. If you have any questions regarding the Pyramid Program or the assistance your chapter is receiving, please email Victoria Stankus, director of fraternity services, at stankus@deltasig.org.

Thank you,

Victoria Stankus