### Groves, Allen William (awg8vd)

From:

Andrew Huffman

Sent:

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:00 PM

To:

ifc2020@virginia.edu

Cc:

Gist, Vicki L (vlg3q); Caruccio, Julie I (jwi2p); Groves, Allen William (awg8vd); Winkowski,

Alex (aw5uq); Holland, Ashley (ah8hm)

Subject:

Spring Semester Social Guidelines

Attachments:

Spring Semester IFC\_ISC COVID Statement (2).pdf

Dear All-

I hope you have enjoyed a safe and relaxing break, and that you are looking forward to the Spring semester as much as I am. I am writing to express a few thoughts on the ongoing pandemic, and how we, as the IFC, can deal with it.

In the Fall, we, as the Greek community, showed that we are capable of holding ourselves accountable for watching out for the personal safety of each other and of the Charlottesville community. You all should be proud of the work you've done to show empathy and compassion for others through your actions. With that said, the job is not finished. We must stay vigilant in our efforts to combat the spread of the virus by continuing to wear masks, limit group sizes, and practice physical distancing. The attached guidelines outline a few ways you can do that, and still enjoy your time in your fraternity.

These next few months hold a lot of promise in terms of vaccination and hope of some steps towards normality. This does not mean we are ready to return to parties and large gatherings, but we hope that realigning with the University's rules will allow us to be creative in the ways in which we spend time together as a Greek community. To that end, the Inter Fraternity Council and the Inter Sorority Council have decided to lift the ban on in-person events. Attached are the guidelines we expect you all to follow, which includes a 6 person limit on in person gatherings, in order to gather safely. Please read it in its entirety. Violations of the guidelines will be adjudicated by the IFCJC and, if necessary, the UJC as well.

I know that this situation is not ideal. I am disappointed for all of our fourth years who will not have the experience they had looked forward to for so long. I am empathetic to those of you who are facing very difficult circumstances as a result of the pandemic, and I wish there was more that could be done to make this better for everyone. For now, we will have to make do with a 6 person maximum, and I commit to you that we will reevaluate as often as necessary to give you all as much freedom as we can.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

All the best, Andrew Huffman IFC President







Inter-Sorority Council

## 2021 Spring Semester Social Gathering Policy

#### Introduction

We want to thank each and every one of you for doing your part the last few months to uphold a safe environment for the UVA and Charlottesville communities. Your efforts did not go unnoticed, as we successfully returned to and remained on Grounds, and Charlottesville Covid cases stayed relatively low throughout the fall semester. However, now it is more important than ever to maintain compliance with public health guidelines and practice safe habits. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and with your continued hard work, we can inch closer and closer to nearing the end of this pandemic.

#### Spring Semester COVID-19 Policy

In the Fall, doing our part meant suspending all forms of in-person organization, which proved necessary and effective. With more information and building upon the largely positive behavior exhibited this past semester, the IFC and ISC are revising our policy to be in line with the University's guidelines. At present, the University allows gatherings of six or fewer individuals, and we are amending the IFC/ISC policy to match that number (more specifics below). The amendment is effective immediately; however, the stringent IFC and ISC Recruitment regulations in place will take precedence during the period of formal recruitment. As the University adjusts guidelines, we will revisit the IFC/ISC policy accordingly.

#### Implications

The objective of this revision is to maintain engagement within our communities and integrate new members, while prioritizing health and safety. To be as clear as possible, this adjustment prohibits parties or gatherings that conflict with <u>University guidelines</u> (SEC-045) in **any capacity**.

The IFC and ISC will enforce this policy with sanctions up to and including recommendation to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life that the offending chapter has their FOA suspended for the remainder of the academic year. We appreciate your compliance, and know that our short term accommodations will allow us to return to traditional Greek Life in the future. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact IFC President, Andrew Huffman

or ISC President, Clare Scully

#### Guidance and Recommendations

To reiterate, this revision does not authorize Greek organizations to host or organize any events that conflict with public health measures that have been taken by the University, Charlottesville, Albemarle county, or the commonwealth of Virginia. This includes but is not limited to: parties, mixers, date functions, and formals.

#### Housing

Greek housing and meal plans are exceptions to this policy. We understand that fraternity men and sorority women are living in close quarters that exceed gathering limits imposed by the University. Although such circumstances comply with Virginia governor's definition of a household, we ask that you take the same outlined precautions to minimize the spread.

#### **Exemptions**

There are **no exemptions** to this policy. Vaccination and/or having already contracted COVID-19 does not mean you are not subject to the same regulations that govern everyone else. Should you feel you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact Andrew or Clare (emails listed above).

#### **Recommended Reduction Strategies**

#### Activities:

Per <u>CDC</u> guidance, we recommend choosing activities outdoors when possible. You are less likely to be exposed and/or to contract COVID-19 in outdoor settings. Activities include:

- Hiking Humpback, the Reservoir, Spyrock, the Rivanna trail, etc.
- Playing sports on Nameless field, Carr's hill field, the sand volleyball courts or the tennis courts
- Grabbing food to eat on the Lawn
- Going for a walk around Grounds

Additionally, activities at Charlottesville or local establishments that have COVID-19 regulations in place are looked favorably upon. For example:

- Workout class at Zoom, Purvelo, Formula, Orangetheory, etc.
- Painting class
- Bowling at Bowlero Charlottesville

It is important to note that it is possible to make any of these activities unsafe if you fail to follow the basic public health guidelines provided by the CDC and the University. By the same token, if you comply with those guidelines you can make other activities not listed above safe as well. In doing this we encourage you to use your best judgment and consider not only your own safety, but those around you. A general rule of thumb is that if you're worried about consequences of engaging in the activity, you probably shouldn't do it at all.

#### **Pod System:**

Public health officials advise that social gathering be limited to a small number of people (a pod) in order to help slow the spread of COVID-19. The premise is to choose 6 or fewer people to gather with on a regular basis and limit your social interaction to those people. Such practices will reduce the risk of spreading the disease and allow for effective and efficient contact tracing. Particularly, the pod system is valuable in instances such as carpooling, where complying with

social distancing standards proves difficult. Pods can be created based on living situations, Greek families, or access to transportation. More information on pods or social bubbles can be found <u>here</u>.

#### **General Personal Safety:**

- Wear a mask unless eating or drinking
- Keep a recommended 6ft distance from others
- Wash your hands frequently
- Limit time spent with others
- Please take into consideration, if choosing to drink, be mindful of the way alcohol
  influences both mind and body. Alcohol can lower inhibitions and impact
  decision-making. This can lead to greater risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19,
  even if individuals are careful during the majority of their daily routines. Be sure to keep
  this in mind and continue to adhere to university guidelines and policies on COVID-19
  prevention.

#### Groves, Allen William (awg8vd)

From: Groves, Allen William (awg8vd)

**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:19 PM

To:

Cc: Gist, Vicki L (vlg3q); Holland, Ashley (ah8hm); Winkowski, Alex (aw5uq); Caruccio, Julie I

(jwi2p)

Subject: RE: IFC Final Hours and Bid Day revised plans

Attachments: Final Hours and Bid day plan.pdf; Rush Violation Adjudication.pdf

Importance: High

I'm only now getting a chance to read through what you sent yesterday morning, as I've been tied up with other timesensitive COVID matters related to our return to Grounds for the spring semester.

Having carefully considered the Final Hours and Bid Day plan in light of the University's policy (SEC-045), I don't see how the chapters can execute these plans as written without violating University policy. The policy at present limits gatherings to six (6) individuals.

Now, perhaps it's possible – depending on the layout of the house – to hold three of these gatherings of six at one time, provided they are in separate rooms large enough to allow social distancing among the six men in each room. That would solve the Bid Day issue, as three PNMs could arrive and be split up, each joined by five brothers, located in three larger, wholly separate physical spaces, for the brief presentation of the bid. This is the only way I believe this can work within University policy.

I'm happy to join you both on a Zoom with our staff to discuss this in more detail, including this weekend if needed. I don't want anyone to mistakenly violate policy and face sanctions or, worse, create a virus "spreader" incident without meaning to do so.

Allen W. Groves

University Dean of Students

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P.O. Box 400708, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4708

Phone: 434.924.7429 | 434.924.7133 Email: allengroves@virginia.edu

www.odos.virginia.edu

From: Caruccio, Julie I (jwi2p) < jwi2p@virginia.edu>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:27 PM

To:

Cc: Gist, Vicki L (vlg3q) <vlg3q@virginia.edu>; Groves, Allen William (awg8vd) <awg8vd@virginia.edu>; Holland, Ashley

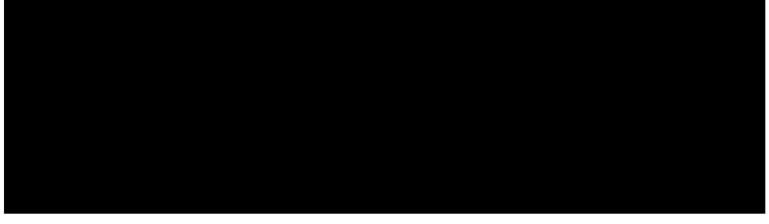
(ah8hm) <ah8hm@virginia.edu>; Winkowski, Alex (aw5uq) <aw5uq@virginia.edu>

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- No in-person gathering off grounds may occur with more than <u>Eight</u> total people *and* in which there is no social distancing or mask wearing when needed
- We expect these in-person gatherings to be comprised of small lunches, dinners, coffee outings, etc., in which 2-3 actives take out 4-5 PNMs in an attempt to have more intimate and engaging interactions which are vital to the IFC recruitment process



Best, Julie

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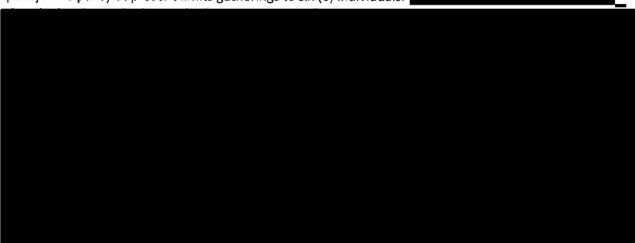
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From:	
Sent: To:	Saturday, January 30, 2021 2:01 PM Groves, Allen William (awg8vd)
Cc:	Gist, Vicki L (vlg3q); Holland, Ashley (ah8hm);
	Winkowski, Alex (aw5uq); Caruccio, Julie I (jwi2p)
Subject:	Re: IFC Final Hours and Bid Day revised plans
Attachments:	IFC Finalized Rush Plans (1).docx
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On Fri Ion 20, 2021 at 10:20	DM Crosses Allow William (coursely) coursely Criminia advantage
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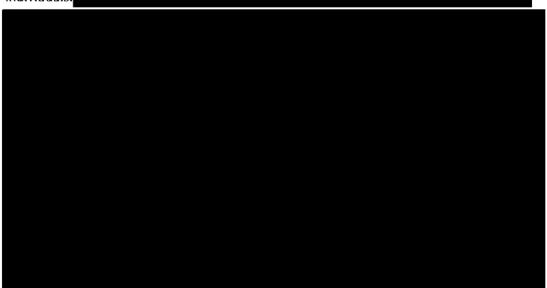
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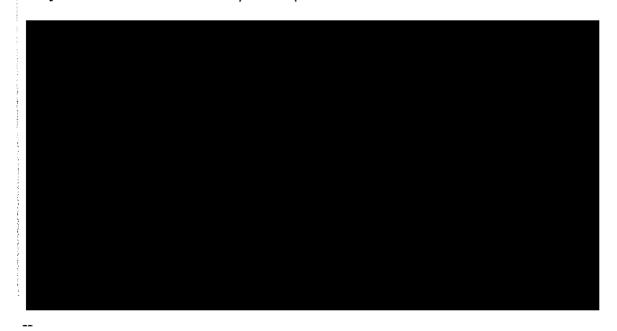
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<Final Hours and Bid day plan.pdf>
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