



**SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**Student Life & Leadership
Division of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity**

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This is an official document.

SIGMA THETA PSI MULTICULTURAL SORORITY DECISION LETTER

Thank you for meeting with me on November 23, 2020 to discuss the alleged policy violations of Theft and Violation of Policies that reportedly took place on Saturday, October 17, 2020 at an off-campus residence inhabited by members of another social fraternity. During the meeting, I outlined the process and findings of Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority's investigation.

Throughout the investigation, which included interviews with members of the organization and witnesses, it was found:

- On Thursday, October 15, 2020, a member of the sorority went to an apartment inhabited by members of a social fraternity and took one of their three wooden chapter letters. The wooden letter was taken back to a different off-campus apartment where members of the sorority resided.
- On Friday, October 16, 2020, members of the sorority invited members of a different social fraternity over for a small in-person gathering. When leaving the gathering, the invited fraternity members took the wooden letter from the apartment and brought it back to their chapter facility.
- On Saturday, October 17, 2020, in an effort to get the wooden letter back from the fraternity that took it from them, two members of the sorority went to the fraternity's chapter facility where one remained to "barter" for the letter back. The sorority member informed the fraternity where the other two remaining fraternity wooden letters were and assisted the fraternity in taking them and bringing them back to the fraternity's chapter facility. In an attempt to store the letters in the backyard, both letters were damaged and later discarded.
- Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority and the collaborating social fraternity made contact with the other social fraternity, admitting participation in the theft of the wooden letters. An agreement was made between all parties involved to replace the letters that were taken and damaged. Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority provided a written apology to the fraternity for taking the letters.

During the interview process, the San Diego State University and Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority's COVID-19 policies and member expectations were discussed. Individuals interviewed were aware of COVID-19 policies and expectations outlined by the university via email correspondence received regarding in-person interactions. Additionally, it was expressed that members involved understood the severity of their actions.



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Decision

Based on the information presented during the course of the investigation, including reports, investigative interviews, and discussion during the Informal Conference, I have found that the preponderance of the evidence establishes that Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority is responsible for violations of the following Student Organization Code of Conduct policies: Theft and Violation of Policies.

b(33)-5 Theft. *Theft of property or services from Recognized Student Organizations, student organization events or student organization facilities. "Pranks" where theft is involved are considered to be a violation of this policy.*

b(36)-4 Violation of Policies. *Violation of any other published University policy, rule, regulation or presidential order.*

As a result of the policy violations, Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority is sanctioned to **Probation with Stipulations** through April 17, 2021.

Any further violations of University policy during the term of Probation may result in an immediate Interim Suspension. In addition to the Probation, Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority must complete the following stipulations:

Chapter Education

Educational Workshops. Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority is expected to host ongoing educational workshops for members of the chapter. Specifically, the following workshops are stipulated for the term of the sanction and must have 80% chapter participation:

- Spring 2021: Successful Community Living

Fraternity & Sorority Life staff can advise on presenters and workshop development. The presentations will be facilitated by trained, professional staff/volunteers of the University and/or Fraternity, or another approved speaker. Active members and Executive Board members may not facilitate the training.

It is expected that the chapter leadership will schedule a meeting with me to review and advise on the workshops and identify presenters. Documentation of workshop completion must be sent to Fraternity & Sorority Life staff within 24-hours of the workshops. Documentation should be in Google Slides format and include photos, presenter information, the strengths of the workshops and the opportunities for growth.

Lastly, the decision letter outlines the expectations for Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority's probation. As a reminder, the university's COVID-19 policies remain in effect. With that said, the chapter is expected to continue to uphold the guidelines set by the university regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Failure to complete these sanctions may result in the Interim Suspension of Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority.



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Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me in the Informal Conference. We hope that the outcome of the incident will contribute to the success of Sigma Theta Psi Multicultural Sorority at San Diego State University.

Respectfully,

Matthew H Garcia

Assistant Director, Student Life & Leadership for Fraternity & Sorority Life

CC:

Dr. Randy Timm, Assistant Vice President for Campus Life and Dean of Students

Caryl Montero-Adams, Director, Student Life & Leadership

Jessica Chang, Faculty/Staff Advisor, Sigma Theta Psi Sorority

Susana Tello, Alumna Advisor, Sigma Theta Psi Sorority

Christian Cortez II, President, United Sorority & Fraternity Council

Hope Park, Judicial Director, United Sorority & Fraternity Council