

INDEX EDITORIAL

OUR VIEW

Conduct board's double standards lead to confusion

Sigma Tau Gamma seems to have gotten away thus far with five major Student Conduct Code violations with little more than a slap on the wrist and the wag of a finger.

Alcohol-related violations have plagued the fraternity since it's previous probation in February 2009, as reported in the Dec. 3 issue of the Index.

Less than 12 months after the February probation and several violations later, Sig Tau is still not suspended. David Hoffman, assistant dean of Student Affairs, said the fraternity currently is under review for another incident. The University Conduct Board will reach a decision on that case next semester, Hoffman said.

Sig Tau's probation, instead of suspension, wouldn't be creating such a stir if the University Conduct Board didn't have a recent and similar situation that derived very different results.

Some might recall the two-year suspension and additional year probation the conduct board issued Alpha Kappa Lambda in 2007 after the board found AKL in violation of disruptive conduct and alcohol- and drug-related misconduct in a single incident.

There seems to be a punishment discrepancy here.

The conduct board needs to decide how harshly they are going to punish Student Conduct Code violations for all campus organizations. This inconsistency in punishment makes the system appear biased and flawed.

Why did the University suspend AKL after one violation, but have yet to enact the same punishment on Sig Tau, an organization that has been plagued with violations and controversy on multiple occasions?

Suspension, or going a step further and stripping Sig Tau of its charter, seems to be the only punishment left that the conduct board can force on Sig Tau. An extension and enhancement of its probation has been the harshest punishment so far. Hoffman told the Index that this most recent round of

probation is "more intense."

More intense? A couple workshops and a few semester-long reports? If the conduct board considered AKL to be a danger to the University at-large after one violation, isn't Sig Tau just as much or possibly more of a danger to its own members and other students who might frequent its events?

In addition to the conduct code violations, there is still a warrant for the arrest of former Sig Tau member Birk Granberg on a sexual assault charge. Granberg fled the country last spring prior to arrest, according to law enforcement. While it's true one is innocent until proven guilty, it is hard for prosecutors to find the alleged offender guilty if he flees the country.

At some point the University has to take responsibility for its students and reputation and intervene in a dangerous situation and find a way to fix it or, if it can't be fixed, remove the situation from the University.

We all belong to this institution, and we look to the institution to protect us. Eventually if students are unable to make good decisions for themselves, the University has to make decisions for them. It is well beyond time for the University to step up discipline for Sig Tau. Because not only is it turning into a dangerous situation, it is staining the reputation of the entire Greek system and Truman State University.

Although not all Truman students agree with or want to participate in the Greek system here, it is an integral part of university life. And when prospective students and parents hear about fraternities going unpunished or barely punished for alcohol and other violations, they might think twice about the value of the "Truman experience."

All organizations are bound to break a rule or two. It's expected that students will step a toe or two out of line. But it is the responsibility of the University to keep all student organizations equally responsible for their actions. Double standards just lead to confusion.

CORRECTIONS

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please e-mail index@truman.edu, call us at 660-785-4449, or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo, 63501.

- A story on page 1 of the Dec. 3 edition of the Index incorrectly named Birk Granberg Birk Brandenburg on first reference.
- A story on page 1 of the Dec. 3 edition of the Index incorrectly listed Ryan Cochran a senior. Cochran is actually a junior.
- A story on page 1 of the Dec. 3 edition of the Index incorrectly identified the second tier of University Conduct Board punishment as probation. It is actually suspension.

CARTOON

By Alex Boles



Letter to the Editor

Resident defends Dixon's choices

As a faculty senior spouse and independent scholar who remains unfashionably supportive of resigned former TSU first ever female president Barbara Dixon whose last words literally to me were "not to get too personal" in upset with any "reformer" elements still lingering on her once loyal Board of Governors that ousted her so mysteriously her last actual summer, can one append a few comments on your sensationalistic front and inner page comments of the Dec. 3 issue of the Index?

You do not need the over-inflated and costly U.S. doctorate to notice something given her largely male, white, rich, non-Kirksville, non-faculty, non-student, (thus wholly unrepresentative of us all) Board critics must also have plentiful recent photo seen about the lengthy indignant tones about the nearly quarter of a million dollar severance deal ongoingly, yes, for a later few months they themselves agreed with her a TSU legal consultant, for in fact just a few talk and future economy sessions. Namely, commendably, in my opinion purely she co-operated with your student investigative team as if she had 'not' in public service performance bravely done so, none of your detail would have been so impressive. Even though personally I cannot but help acutely loathing the sexist "loser" gloss, preppily, with which, a lot of scapegoat-her, your findings are laced.

Now, it's this unaccountability and over-cost issue point that I think should in Board and campus mismanagement point the future

Index and community/student, above all more elected Student Senate focus, for 2010, and by itself taken on by Democrat "peoples" governor and lawyer Nixon. That is if you have had the wit, to send your barnstorming issue to alertingly him, the state cost audit office and interested powerful "muckraker" newspapers like the state education reporters of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. As the cost overrun, here, was the result of other peoples' incompetence and turnaround from previous support of her now successful reformer by her, and hypocritically themselves, in getting rid, once and for all, of the profligate non-teacher division heads in favor of today's more streamlined, younger, faculty-led progressive subject departments.

In short, while her reforms might still, as you nastily opine be "unpopular" in certain ousted administrator quarters, they are the basis of both a student and we community and parents' payers alike greater future rather than Interim President Darrell Krueger fans paying unjust themselves for dinners in SUB to interminable "select" a real short list successor. Indeed, it is NMSU/TSU non-local, non old white male guard Presidents who historically get things changed do not Governor Nixon. As many of us can recall how similar NMSU outsider President Warrant had a similar "self-resignation" tragedy needlessly forced public record on him too, despite he being factually responsible for TSU's first really big African American student enrollments and political radicalism with papers like The Voice (where, today, ladies of the female silenced TSU student, faculty, staff statistical majority, pray come 2010?).

What parents and Governor Nixon need to do is not scapegoat brilliant, if not always tactful people like former prezzies Dixon and Warren, who note were at their career short TSU outsets and Student Senate and, yes, Index "rebel" candidate enthusiastically backed (paradoxically, critics like me were their initial skeptics!), but take a plow to cleanse this and other state campuses of old guard, white male insider elites. This is what we educational outsider reformers like turn-of-the-last-century Scandinavian American economist T. Veblen have long sought — ever since he first documented how such white male remote "business elites" were subverting, into the original, democratically-intended boards and even subject departments.

For a start, if the Index is serious about cutting the elite's cost self-boons, how about in 2010, a "survey" of such excesses as one family having all but one of its five local members in current jobs in just one Department, a practice that cannot be fair ability, Governor Nixon, can it or truly beneficial to subject diversity (and I say that as supportive of two of the four hires real work teaching myself, observantly?). Yet such bad malpractices were even more family, white male self-enrichment a feature of the discarded Division structure, Barbara, bless her, rid us all usefully of in credit The Index should, no more vendetta, "concede" her the coming year, folks. She freed up many exploited female faculty, non-sport students from such burdens, fearlessly. Well done Barbara, even though you won't like me publicly recording it in the Index.

Larry Iles, Kirksville resident

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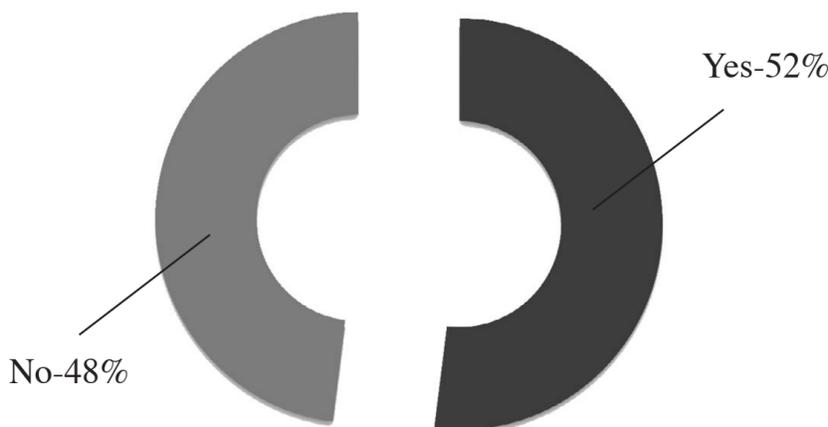
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