

IFC | Sig Tau prohibited from participating in rush for next two semesters

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must send a letter to its nationals explaining the situation.

Senior Alex Howard, IFC executive committee vice president, said the charges were brought forward because of an incident at a non-Greek party during rush week in which several Sig Taus brought alcohol and a rushee to the event.

Howard said these punishments were unusually strict for a fraternity violating rush policy.

"The arguments for these being the sanctions were that its not fair for everyone else if they get to wet rush," Howard said. "It breaks the spirit of rush. They were on probation so they should be trying to skate the cleanest line they can. Everyone just thought since they were already in trouble they should have tried to avoid trouble more so than they did."

Each fraternity had one member participate in the judiciary board, but Sig Tau could not sit in on deliberations because they were being charged. Alpha Kappa Lambda and Sigma Phi Epsilon brought the charges forward and therefore also couldn't participate.

In a written statement to the Index, Sig Tau President senior John Cicotte said the Judicial Board procedures and sanctions were unfair because the prosecution witnesses admitted to not seeing the rushee enter the party and it was undisputed that the rushee did not consume nor possess alcohol at the event.

"Viewed in context, the sanctions are grossly excessive — the equivalent of a 20 year prison sentence for rolling a stop sign," Cicotte said in the statement. "Our members are shocked, our alumni are outraged, and Sigma Tau Gamma will, of course, appeal."

BYPASS | New Highway 63 bypass comes with pros and cons

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said he sees pros and cons to the route's potential for the city.

Detweiler said he hopes cars going north or south on Route 63 will continue to Baltimore Street and use the gas stations and restaurants rather than take the alternate route.

"The benefit that I see is that most of the [tractor trailers] that are going north and south will use the alternate route, therefore making it safer on Baltimore for regular cars," Detweiler said.

Detweiler said he ultimately hopes there won't be a negative impact on the local businesses.

"The main purpose for

building the bypass is to relieve congestion on Baltimore or Route 63 in Kirksville," MoDOT resident engineer Jeff Gander said.

Gander said traffic continuously has been a problem on Route 63 through Kirksville, because the backups at busy intersections are getting out of control. The hope is people driving on Route 63 who have no reason to stop in Kirksville can use the alternate road, eliminating unnecessary traffic on the main stretch.

While Gander said the alternate route isn't primarily geared toward eliminating traffic overall, diverting tractor trailers will be benefit.

"They don't accelerate very well, so when you have [a

tractor trailer] stopped at a light, you might only be able to get a few through, whereas you could get eight or 10 cars," Gander said.

There will be five "access points" along the alternative route that will connect to Kirksville roads: Lincoln Way Extension, Route P, Route 6, Route 11 and Dogwood Lane, according to MoDOT's Alternative Route 63 project website.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony occurred at the NEMO Fairgrounds on Monday. Speakers included Missouri State Rep. Zach Wyatt, R-2, and MoDOT Chief Engineer Dave Nichols.

ETHICS | Ethics justice appointed despite concerns about impartiality

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haven't had one in years and the wheels haven't fallen off," Robinson said.

Nely said he wasn't looking for an ethics justice candidate when Allan applied for the job, but he and Senate adviser Laura Bates were "pleasantly surprised" to have someone interested in the job, which was vacant because a lack of interest.

"It's not like we're best buddies and I told him to apply for the job because we're close," Nely said.

He said he thinks Robinson's concern stems from the fact that he and Allan ran on the same ticket against Robinson for President of the Student Association two years ago.

Nely said he considered the potential for impartiality when he looked at Allan's application. He asked Allan about it during his preliminary interview, but he decided it was not a risk.

"There's really not that much special power involved in the role of ethics justice," Nely said.

If someone brings an ethical charge against a Senate member, the ethics justice works with the Senate adviser to appoint a committee to investigate. The committee makes a recommendation, and the ethics justice presents its findings to the Senate, which votes on whether it should punish the accused member, Nely said.

"[It won't be a problem] unless he stacks the committee, and I don't think he will," Nely said. "I made him promise to work with our unbiased advisor."

In the case of an impeachment for any Senate member including the president, the entire body votes on the action, according to the Senate constitution. However "the ethics justice may prosecute cases of impeachment at his discretion upon discovery of conduct violations," according to Senate's standing rules.

Allan said he is confident he will be able to handle his job impartially because he served on an ethics board in his fraternity that found one of his closest friends guilty of unethical behavior. If anything, his friendships in Senate could be an advantage, he said.

"You don't lie for your friends," he said. "You don't cheat for your friends. You're not dishonest for your friends."

Allan said he wondered why Robinson didn't raise concerns while Senate Speaker Brett Cline, who is involved in College Democrats with Nely and Polwort, filled the role of ethics justice pro-tem.

"He never addressed it," Allan said. "It wasn't until I, his opponent freshman year, was appointed to the position."

Allan said he applied for the job because he saw the position was open and wanted to become involved in Senate again.

He said he wants to use his job as elections organizer to increase student turn-out.

"We had about 150 out of 6,000 students vote in the last election," Allan said. "That's not good for the health of the Senate."

TAILGATE | With a future wet tailgate up in the air, alcohol-related events remain controversial on campus

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established a taskforce to attend a potential wet tailgating event at the Nov. 5 football game and to present their findings the next day during the weekly public Student Senate meeting.

While Paino has not yet declared Nov. 5 a wet tailgate, he is currently scheduled to attend the Nov. 6 Student Senate meeting to hear the presentation, Nely said.

"I've been approached by countless people in the wake of the Sept. 10 game saying that we need a student opinion formulated that says [wet tailgating] is a good thing," he said.

Nely said no one has given him negative feedback about the issue.

"I, personally, would be in favor of making a standing policy

to allow wet tailgating before every game," Nely said.

The names of the taskforce members are confidential, though the committee chair will be public for the presentation.

"Their job is to fully investigate every detail that would come along with wet tailgating — really positive or negative," Nely said.

He said some students and faculty thought Paino's decision in September would permanently allow wet tailgating before every football game, while others thought there would be no chance of wet tailgating happening again.

Luke Freeland, student representative to the Board, said there is a possibility for future wet tailgating events.

"I believe that [Paino] is looking into the future, maybe not this year even, but in the future maybe trying it again, especially since the results of this past one did not turn out anything bad," he said.

Freeland said the Board is open to the idea of future events.

"I don't think, necessarily, President Paino is against the idea," he said. "I think he just wants to be careful evaluating whether or not the changes need to be made or how they will be made."

Freeland said wet tailgating does have risks, including physical injury, people leaving the tailgating zone, drunk driving and alienating groups who feel uncomfortable around alcohol.

During the week prior to the Board meeting, communication

FACEBOOK | Revised "Facebook Law" gives school districts discretion on policy

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State Teachers Association was granted an injunction against the law in August after suing the state. Nixon then asked the Missouri Legislature to repeal four sections of one statute in the bill related to electronic communication, according to an Aug. 26 press release.

The legislature revised the bill so each district must adopt a policy regarding teacher-student communication by March 1, 2012, according to Senate Bill 1.

MSTA spokesperson Todd Fuller said the original bill concerned teachers because it made what they could and couldn't do with social media unclear, both inside and outside the classroom. He said many teachers were worried their use of social media as an educational tool could violate the law.

"It was still confusing enough that even legislators were unsure about what would be covered and not covered by the law," he said.

Fuller said the law could have impeded the educational process within the classroom, but it also potentially could have prevented teachers from using social media in their personal lives. He said the judge who ruled in favor of the injunction mostly used language in his ruling that pertained to the impact of the law on teachers' personal lives. Still, he said, there are school districts that currently restrict teachers' use of social media.

"There were districts that were, ... and still are in some cases, saying to teachers, 'We don't want you to use Facebook,'" Fuller said. "Now that's not saying 'We don't want you to use Facebook in the classroom,' [it's saying] 'we don't want you to use it at all.' And that was the bigger issue."

He said the issue of teacher-student interaction through social media had become so prevalent throughout the country that it was likely districts were going to write policies even without legislation forcing them to do so.

Fuller said he's glad the bill revisions allow school districts to decide their own policies because they can decide what's best for their district.

"Our argument all along was that the legislature had gone too far the first time trying to create policy that didn't work for every district in the state," he said. "The Missouri Teachers Association are strong proponents of local control, and our argument is that most districts know what's better for their district and what takes place in their particular district than the state legislature does."

Susan Goldammer, Missouri School Board Association senior director of employment and labor relations, said the revisions

give more discretion to school districts regarding their policy content, which is a positive step because the use of technology varies widely among districts. However, she said, the steps toward writing those policies are not simple.

"The downside is this is an extremely difficult area to write policy in," she said.

She said strong opinions on both sides of the issue make social media policies difficult to craft. Goldammer said many teachers and students think there should be no barriers between them in electronic communication, but others think more should be done to protect students from predators who would misuse their authority as teachers.

"The problem is how many roadblocks do we put on the good communication to prevent the bad communication," Goldammer said.

She said policy decisions usually are best made by individual school districts rather than the legislature.

"The legislature is frequently tempted to substitute their wisdom for the knowledge and wisdom of the local school board," Goldammer said. "And that can cause quite a few problems because certainly education is one of those areas where 'one-size-fits-all' doesn't work."

Goldammer said that when the original bill was passed many teachers came out against it, pointing to their use of electronic communication as an educational tool, which she thinks surprised many legislators.

She said the MSBA provides starter documents and example policies to more than 300 school districts, but many districts revise those policies. She said the MSBA encourages revision so the policies fit in each district, which means the documents it provides for the social media policy potentially could be made more restrictive by some districts. However, she said she does not think districts would adopt highly restrictive policies because such policies likely would lead to legal issues.

"School districts tend to be very cautious," she said. "They want to use that money educating kids, not defending lawsuits."

She said the MSBA has been working since June to create a sample policy, which she hopes will be done in about a month.

Perkins said she does not think restrictions should be put on electronic communication between teachers and students. She said that though the intention of such restrictions is to keep students safe, they don't solve the problem.

to go to a ball game if I know I'm near people that have been drinking, personally."

Poyner said he can understand the argument for promoting a social atmosphere, but he that does not have to involve alcohol.

Nely said he is planning to send a survey to all students via email to better understand student opinion about the issue.

Poyner said if Nely is partisan, the survey might be administered with less bias by a third party.

"Simply because you have a survey, doesn't necessarily tell me a lot one thing or the other about what students want," Poyner said. "There may be lots of things we want that we don't need."

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Questions? Matt Magruder - mmagruder@truman.edu

