

Judicial Board Case Studies

Case 1

On Sunday afternoon rumors are circulating that Brother Klepec offended several house guests the previous evening. There is talk that he exposed himself on the beer pong table during a game against several sorority members. This is not the first incident Brother Klepec has been involved with. Several months ago he was drunkenly yelling out the back window of a car, which resulted in the vehicle being stopped by police. Fortunately, the driver (who was under 21) was entirely sober and passed several field-issued breathalyzer tests. Unfortunately, Brother Cresci in the back seat, was under the legal drinking age, and had been drinking earlier in the evening. He was eventually cited for underage consumption and a \$100 fine. The previous judicial board only held Brother Klepec responsible for Brother Cresci's \$100 fine. In addition, Brother Klepec's grades have recently fallen below house standards of a 2.80. In previous semesters, Brother Klepec maintained a 3.0-3.2 GPA, however, last semester he received a 2.1. There are also some noticeable changes in Brother Klepec's behavior, ever since he stopped playing varsity football at the end of last fall. While there have been numerous discussions about dealing with the deteriorating situation, the Executive Committee has consistently decided Brother Klepec's loyalty, participation in every pledging, recruitment, and philanthropic event the last year outweighs his rare moments of obnoxious behavior. As the day continues, it becomes clear that Brother Klepec did expose himself. Another Brother's girlfriend was on the opposing team. While she has volunteered to talk to her sisters and ensure the incident does not surface among school authorities, some members of the chapter are clamoring that internal disciplinary action must be taken.

Case 2

Following a successful first two weeks of rush, the chapter decides to hold its annual Big Brother Night. Each year it seems this evening get a little more focused on drinking the "littles" stupid. However, the event does draw back several young alumni, who often leave generous contributions to the house prior to departure. The former Consul, who has been credit with revamping the chapter and turning the house into a respected Fraternity on the campus and a Peterson Chapter in the International Fraternity, has been paired with the pledge class president (PCP). The former Consul and the PCP decide to split a bottle of Jack Daniels. Although they are not nearly the most intoxicated during the event, it becomes clear that the PCP will need a walk back to the dorm room. The Magister volunteers to walk him back to his room. As the PCP enters the room, he steps on a skateboard and falls backwards hitting his head on the corner of his desk. There is blood everywhere and it is evident that the PCP must be taken to the hospital. After calling the ambulance, the Magister informs the Consul and past Consul, who come down to the dorms and take the ambulance ride with the PCP. The past Consul admits it was his fault for having the PCP become intoxicated. The issue is briefly discussed by quickly dismissed at the next chapter meeting. However, it is discovered that several Brothers had fed the PCP shots of Everclear before he began drinking with the past Consul. The past Consul is agitated but says nothing since he encourage drinking late in the evening. Several weeks later the school contacts the chapter with the filed police report and a complaint from several dorm members of the PCP. The house immediately calls a meeting. The Executive Committee refuses to punish the past Consul, who is very well-liked, has the highest grades, is the face of the fraternity on campus, and is the student body president. University officials have no interest in pursuing his role in the situation either, but make it clear that several members must be expelled or suspended in order for the house to retain its recognition with the school. Eventually, the Executive Committee submits the names of the Brothers who fed the PCP Everclear (prior to the start of the evening), the Brothers responsible for planning the evening, and the house manager for not clearing the house of chapter-agreed upon banned beverages (Everclear). Reluctantly, they also bring the past Consul to the J-Board and the Magister for his decision to walk the PCP home when several Brothers vigorously argued it was best to let him stay in the house for the evening.

Appendix N: Judicial Board Case Studies

Case 3

You receive a call on the chapter's anonymous hazing hotline. The caller proclaims to be a Sigma Chi and later identifies himself as one through a verbal challenge. He also clearly displays that he knows you reasonably well or at least has met you on several occasions. This only narrows it down to about 150 potential alumni who actively attend various chapter events. After exchanging pleasantries, he informs you that he has gotten word that there is hazing ongoing during the pledging process. He even informs you that he has received confirmation from a legacy Brother, he knows through another alumnus. While he then takes several minutes to share war stories of the hazing that he went through as a pledge, his tone quickly changes as he informs you the strides he made to eradicate hazing after his initiation. He informs you that he will offer his assistance in any way possible and will not contact the school or the International Fraternity, but if nothing is done several of his friends and himself will stop making large financial contributions to the house and discontinue attending alumni gatherings. After ending the call on a Brotherly note, you seek out the Magister. The Magister reassures you that there is no hazing in the pledge program, but also informs you that several pledges have complained about being hazed. When you ask the Magister how he addressed the issue, he admits he dismissed the complaints because the hazing was occurring outside the structured pledge program and did not want to make waves. After two weeks of quiet investigation, it becomes clear that there is a group of guys (which you have identified most of them) that have adopted pledges as their personal servants (cleaning, cooking, going on food runs, paying for full car details, getting books from the library, even retyping papers after the Brothers have had the paper proofread). Unfortunately, the pledges will not admit to these activities and the only one who finally does says he will walk from the pledge program before talking to anybody about the duties to which he has been subjected. Even more troubling, is that several of the Brothers involved are members of the executive committee or past officers. All of these Brothers are highly respected, well liked, and very involved in the chapter's activities and governance.