GSED is disappointed to have to reiterate the statement that was made in last week's newsletter, which is necessary after it was ignored and the staff was forced to address parties and gatherings hosted by chapters and members off campus throughout this past week. Please remind your members that these functions can be addressed by the Department of Student Community Ethics as both an individual conduct case and/or a chapter/organization conduct case. Your entire organization can be held accountable for the actions of your individual members. Some fraternity and/or sorority members may not view this as fair, but we would like to remind you that all of us took an oath during an initiation ceremony and promised to hold ourselves to a higher standard than others and follow the values determined by our founders. We don't get to pick and choose the parts of fraternity/sorority membership that we like, agree with, and abide by. All expectations come with the privilege of membership.
"Aspire to inspire before you expire."
- Eugene Bell Jr.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REITERATION

As a reminder, here was the statement put out in the GSED Weekly last week:

It is very obvious to GSED that our messaging with regard to abiding by the Catamounts Care guidelines and keeping students and everyone safe has not been made clear enough. As organizations, it is not acceptable for you to be officially or unofficially hosting gatherings on or off campus that do not abide by the physical distancing and mask wearing guidelines. This includes registered and unregistered events and parties on the weekends at apartments, houses, and lands that are occupied by members of your chapters. If your chapter or your members are marketing an open party to the student body, you are not only putting every person there at risk for spreading diseases, but you are blatantly ignoring and going against the federal, state, and inter/national organization guidelines and regulations that have been set fourth. This office supports only safe and responsible behaviors across the board, COVID or no COVID. Do better. Be them members you gave an oath to be.

INFORMATION RELEASE FORM

Because it is not safest to collect physical signatures from PNMs and interests, especially if something were to happen and WCU were to go online for the rest of the semester, GSED has had to create a new Information Release Form to be able to collect an electronic signature.

The Information Release Form was sent out to all chapter presidents, and it allows GSED to pull the academic and conduct records for all students pursuing fraternity or sorority membership. This form must be filled out by each PNM and interest, emailed to the proper email from their CATAMOUNT EMAIL to verify their identity, and their grades and conduct record must be checked before they can be extended a Bid or begin the intake process.

With regard to IFC Recruitment – all Information Release Forms will need to be emailed to greeks@wcu.edu by Thursday (9/3) at 5pm. This will allow the staff time to check the information for the PNMs before the chapters move into their invite only events.

Bottom line: A PNM OR INTEREST CANNOT BE GIVEN A BID OR BEGIN THE INTAKE PROCESS UNTIL THEY HAVE TURNED IN THE FORM AND THEIR GRADES HAVE BEEN CHECKED.

This will be in effect until further notice.

CATAMOUNTS CARE

GSED would like to remind you that all students, faculty, and staff must be wearing their masks, physically distancing, washing their hands, and doing what they need to in order to keep everyone safe. You should not be gathering in groups of more than 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, unless specified capacity regulations allow more people.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

This is a friendly reminder that the virtual GSED Leadership Retreat will be Saturday, September 12 from 9am-4pm on Zoom. It is required that all chapter and council presidents be in attendance. The retreat is also open to all other COUNCIL officers. If you are required to attend as the chapter or council president and cannot make it due to understandable circumstances, you must contact your VP or second in command and have them attend.

You must email Shelby (sgerwin@wcu.edu) by September 4th at 5pm to let her know who from your chapter and/or council will be in attendance.

Please note that there will be an advisor meeting scheduled for later in the semester. This is TBD.
Policy 10 - Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

Western Carolina University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment and does not discriminate, or treat people differently on the basis of race; color; religion; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; national origin; age; disability; genetic information; political affiliation; and National Guard or veteran status. This includes a prohibition on sexual violence and sexual exploitation, which by definition involve conduct of a sexual nature and are prohibited forms of sexual harassment. The University also prohibits stalking and interpersonal violence, which need not be based on an individual’s protected status. Western Carolina University provides aids and services to people with disabilities as required by law and policy.

Here is the link to the full policy on the WCU Website:

Policy 53 - Unlawful Discrimination

Western Carolina University (University or WCU) is committed to equal opportunity in employment for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, political affiliation and veteran status. The University is also committed to an inclusive and welcoming environment where scholarship and the exchange of ideas may be freely accomplished. To the fullest extent allowed by law, the University does not permit harassment based on bigotry, slurs and other hateful rhetoric. Additionally, in order to foster participation and learning, to the fullest extent provided by law, the University does not permit discrimination based on the above classes or characteristics. See Section IV. “Definitions” below for a full description of prohibited conduct. In addition, please review University Policy 129, Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy (Policy 129).

Here is the link to the full policy on the WCU Website:

GSED would like to remind you that all students, faculty, and staff must be wearing their masks, physically distancing, washing their hands, and doing what they need to in order to keep everyone safe. You should not be gathering in groups of more than 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, unless specified capacity regulations allow more people.

**Please also see last week’s newsletter to be informed of the new COVID RSO requirements for all in person meetings, events, programs, tables, and anything else held in person.

Reminder that all Newsletters are now available on the WCU GSED Website!