



The Theta Data

THETA CHAPTER • BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY

OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

<http://www.owu.edu/~betaweb/>

CHAPTER UPDATE

By Marty Haskell '68, President, Theta Chapter House Corporation

A lot has happened at Theta Chapter since I wrote my last article in *Theta Data* (A Step Back Then Move Forward). The undergraduates completed eight of the 10 corrective steps called for in the suspension letter. The two remaining steps by their nature require more time. They are scheduled for completion at the beginning of this school year.

The chapter went to convention in mid-August well-prepared for their review with excellent documentation of their accomplishment and plan. Brother Eric Eickhoff '00 made an excellent presentation of the chapter's work and President Matt Doman '00 pled for the chapter's progress. Brother and District Chief Jon Bolek '88 supported the chapter's report and recommended raising the chapter's status from suspension to probation.

The review panel of five active undergraduate chapter presidents saw things differently and recommended to the convention that Theta Chapter's status be lowered to "Reorganization." The review panel apparently felt that the chapter's disciplinary actions for the incidents leading to the suspension were inadequate, that the chapter had not sufficiently viewed their gravity, and that the chapter was not sufficiently facing its internal problems.

The vote of the convention accepted the recommendation. Consequently, two weeks before the start of the school year, we were given a new set of marching orders.

Our scheduled active-alumni retreat took on new meaning and purpose. The day before its start, Brother Dick DeVos '54 and I (with new chapter adviser Tony Pedela observing) interviewed each member and explained the rules for the chapter during reorganization. As a result, eight members elected to go on undergraduate alumni status, move out of the house and avoid further contact with the chapter while they are undergraduates. This left 21 members (12 seniors, 4 juniors and 5 sophomores) who accepted the challenge to maintain a dry house, conduct dry rush and raise the standard of conduct required to be a Beta at Ohio Wesleyan University. It had always been the contention of the chapter's leadership that a few were bringing discredit to the whole.

Our interview process supported that belief.

The following day, the 21 remaining brothers, Tony Pedela, several general fraternity advisers and I enjoyed

and were challenged by a very well-run retreat at Camp Joy Outdoor Education Center near Fort Ancient, Ohio. Our retreat included teamwork activities, a high ropes course and other individual and team challenges. Our facilitator had himself been a chapter officer of his fraternity when it was reorganized. Our chapter had a very positive experience, came away with a new appreciation of each other and a much improved understanding of communication, teamwork and commitment. All that remains is for them to surmount the challenges placed before them.

We as alumni are there to guide and support them, but it is up to the undergraduates to take Theta Chapter to the next level. I am confident that they will. The continued understanding and support of our alumni remain essential in this rebuilding process.



Marty Haskell '68

REORGANIZATION STATUS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

By Marty Haskell '68

During the October 23 House Corporation meeting, the subject of reorganization status and what it means came to the floor for clarification. Here is the response as given by Marty Haskell '68, House Corporation President.

Reorganization was imposed by the General Convention, and only the General Convention (vote of all the delegates from all the chapters) can remove it. The resolution (that passed and imposed reorganization) states that reorganization will remain in place until District Chief Jon Bolek and Regional Director Peter Tarbell call for a review of the chapter's status. It is important to note here that the chapter cannot request this review; it must be recommended by the DC and RD.

A review of the chapter's status means that the chapter's executive committee will make a presentation to a chapter

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LOOKING FORWARD — AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAPTER

By Jeff Beaudrey '01, Chapter President

The Theta chapter has always been an institution where traditions have been an important part of ritual, pledging and everyday life. However, as many of you know, the Theta Chapter is operating under new rules and regulations this year. The first week back to school we were informed of mandatory changes that would take place in our house. Unfortunately because of some of these changes, several brothers of the house deactivated as active members. The remaining members, along with a few members of House Corp, then attended a two-day retreat. The retreat involved several activities designed to open up our lines of communication and to promote working together. But perhaps the best part of the retreat came at about 1:00 a.m., when the brothers sat around a campfire and discussed the events that had just happened in the house and the future of the Theta Chapter. A few brothers questioned whether they could make the necessary commitment to the new Chapter. This was met with much reassurance by the other brothers that we would work together to accomplish what we needed to. Everyone left the fire with a renewed confidence in each other and our aim and purpose. We established a new openness with each other and a sense of brotherhood, and we returned to campus with enthusiasm and a new focus.

Changing our entire rush and pledging programs has been an ongoing struggle. We were able to get one pledge this semester, a sophomore whom we are pledging using our new pledge system. At first there was some frustration when many traditions of the past were replaced with new activities and teachings. But soon everyone became more comfortable with the idea, and the pledging process has been going well. We have been putting a lot of time and effort into the challenge of conducting a dry rush; it is difficult to change old habits and traditions. Much of our chapter meetings have been spent brainstorming new ideas for meeting freshmen, and for holding events to get to know them better. Overall, the brothers of the Theta Chapter have been putting forth a huge effort toward rushing good, responsible men.

Despite our new challenges, the men of the Theta chapter look forward to a successful year and the continuation of our great tradition.

Contact me at jdbeaudr@cc.owu.edu with comments and questions.

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review panel (just like the presentation made this past summer to have the administrative suspension lifted, but instead resulted in reorganization) to demonstrate the progress the chapter has made and to request (argue for) an upgrade of the chapter's status. The panel can decide to do nothing (allow the reorganization to continue under alumni control); recommend an upgrade to probation for 1 to 2 years (most likely and returns control of the chapter to the active membership); recommend revoking the chapter's charter (closing the chapter); or recommend full active status (unlikely, as most reorganizations go to probation first). The recommendation of the panel then goes to the General Convention floor as a resolution where it can be accepted as is, modified and accepted or rejected (reorganization continues).

No one or few individuals have the authority to remove the reorganization status. A review panel must recommend it to the General Convention. That is the way the constitution of our fraternity works. Our fraternity, by the way, is one of the few — if not the only — Greek fraternity that is totally governed by undergraduates (via the General Convention). No administrative decision is binding past the next General Convention. In this regard it is important to recognize that undergraduate delegates imposed the reorganization and only undergraduate delegates can remove it.

Drop me an e-mail at martyh@fortemgt.com if you have any questions.

