

## **Following suspension from UMaine, Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity loses national standing**

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The University of Maine chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity was suspended on April 2 for repeated violations of its national fraternity standards, including underage drinking and other code of conduct violations, according to Dr. Robert Dana, vice president for student life at the University.

“I can say the fraternity was suspended after a long series of conduct code violations, including providing alcohol,” Dana said.

The University and the fraternity were notified of the decision to immediately suspend the fraternity known as PIKE on April 2 by the fraternity’s national officials.

“It is my unpleasant duty to inform you that the Supreme Council voted to suspend the charter of Kappa Tau Chapter effective immediately due to activities that are inconsistent with the Fraternity’s Standards,” Justin Buck, Pi Kappa Alpha vice president said in a letter to UMaine officials, according to [the Bangor Daily News](#).

The immediate suspension follows the fall 2014 suspension of the fraternity for underage drinking and other code of conduct violations. Fraternity members were allowed to remain in the house while they appealed their suspension, “with the stipulations that a safe, sound and secure residential environment would be maintained, free of parties or illegal behaviors,” Margaret Nagle, senior director of public relations and operations for the University, said in a statement.

“Those stipulations were violated,” Nagle said.

The [fraternity’s national standards](#) mandate that alcohol is not to be consumed while on chapter premises during official chapter events, and unrestricted access to alcohol during open social functions where non-members are invited is prohibited. The standards also prohibit drinking games and the purchase and use of alcohol in bulk quantities, and prohibit alcohol at all rush and new recruitment events, new member programs and chapter rituals.

With this new suspension, all 24 live-in fraternity members must relocate to new housing. The University has offered these members free alternative campus housing, Nagle said.

“Some members have moved out and the landlord is proceeding with eviction processes for those continuing to stay at the house,” Nagle said.

The house, which was condemned in 2011 for multiple housing safety violations — including a missing balcony banister, an improperly functioning fire alarm system, non-functioning emergency lights, an unserviced furnace, standing water and trash problems, [according to the Bangor Daily News](#) — will be repaired and put back to use for a new fraternity that will be moving in, Dana said.

Dana did not specify what fraternity would be moving into the space at 380 College Ave., nor did he specify when the new fraternity would be moving in.

UMaine PIKE members did not respond when reached out to for comment. Also unresponsive was Brett Helberg, chapter consultant for PIKE chapters in the New England states, New York, New Jersey and Delaware.

The suspension of PIKE is just one recent incident involving Greek Life on campus.

In March, it was reported that several members of the Pi Beta Phi sorority were released from the sorority after a visit to the University by Pi Beta Phi national officers, allegedly prompting the burning of chapter clothing and personal possessions by dismissed sorority members at the Orchard Trails housing complex in Orono, [according to the Bangor Daily News](#). Town fire officials said the fire was put out before they arrived.

In 2012, the Sigma Nu fraternity was suspended by the University for allegations of underage drinking and code of conduct violations, which resulted in [emergency ambulance transportation of two underage girls](#), who were not University students, to Eastern Maine Medical Center, the Bangor Daily News reported.

In light of events in recent years, Dana acknowledged the University is working closely with fraternities and sororities to maintain the University's standards.

“We visit the fraternities and sororities to make sure they are upholding our expectations,” Dana said.

PIKE has been suspended through May 31, 2018.