AKPsi
Risk Prevention Program
Hazing Prevention Module
Case Study #2

Alpha Kappa Psi is recognized as the premier developer of principled business leaders.

The Beta Alpha chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi extended bids to 53 people at the end of recruitment. Of the 53 bids extended, 49 were accepted. The pledges are very excited to become members of Alpha Kappa Psi.

All 49 pledges have made it through to the Midcourt ceremony. At the Midcourt ceremony, pledges are lined up and asked questions quickly moving through the line-up. When a pledge gets an answer incorrect, the questions start again at the beginning of the line. When pledges go in front of the panel individually, some of the pledges have their résumé destroyed in front of them. Several members of the pledge class leave their interview crying.

At the end of Midcourt, two pledges are voted out of the pledge class. Rachel, one of the pledges voted out, files an allegation of hazing against the chapter with the Heritage Center staff. Rachel complained of mental intimidation and harassment for both the line-up and the tearing up of her résumé. She also spoke of mandatory study hours, the carrying of a pledge paddle and the requirement to interview 75% of the brothers in the chapter. In the report, she noted some of the brothers, when contacted by e mail (because pledges were instructed to not call brothers to set up interview times) were hostile to her and would not set up convenient times; the only times these brothers made were when she was in class or at work. Some brothers even missed their scheduled appointment making her have to contact the brother to reschedule. Rachel indicated that some brothers made other pledges buy food for them, run errands for them, or act as designated drivers. Rachel, however, did not experience this.

The Heritage Center staff notifies the chapter an allegation of hazing has been received and an investigation will commence. During the course of the investigation, the pledges stated they were willing participants in the activities and they didn't believe they were victims of hazing. Many of the officers talked about improving the pledge class unity and their professionalism. Most of the pledge class said "I'm a better person for having gone through what I did."

- When asked by the investigation team to describe the incidents from your perspective, what is your response?
- What, if any, policy violations occurred in this instance?
- How could this have been avoided? What changes will you make to the Pledge Education Program as a result of these allegations?
- What events and activities should be utilized to pledge class and chapter unity?