



Dear Alumni and Friends of VA Kappa:

While we have had great success in re-establishing our fraternity and reclaiming our new on-campus Chapter House, VA Kappa is currently facing a significant short-term challenge. Our undergraduate manpower remains short of filling all bedrooms in the Chapter House and thus the ongoing financial obligation of the facility lease to the University for the 2018-19 academic year. In 2017-18, we faced the same issue, but were able to fulfill the obligation through the generosity of John Lawson and Don McNamara who paid the significant vacancy balances due (approximately \$50,000 for Fall semester and potentially another \$25,000 will be due unless the seven current vacancies are filled soon).

Our alumni team and the chapter have looked into many options to fill the vacancies next year including shared space with other organizations, offering some portion of the facility to incoming freshmen, and other options. While negotiations with the University and our alumni support team continue; unfortunately, we have no clear resolution and are sharing this dilemma with our alumni base to seek your wisdom for additional ideas and support.

Our undergraduate chapter is young and emerging as one of the best examples for the future of Greek Life at Virginia Tech and Sigma Phi Epsilon. They are committed to the same cardinal principles we were founded on, but are still a new, emerging chapter. These brothers need our help to bridge this short term gap and build the chapter's manpower base. With the support of our alumni, volunteer mentors, and SigEp HQ, the chapter has been working diligently to recruit new, high-caliber members and believe by the 2020 school year manpower can be at approximately 100, which is the chapter membership level recommended by SigEp HQ to sustain a facility with 36 beds.

Based upon this year's experience, the projected financial obligations to cover room vacancies could be as much as \$100,000 per year over the next 2-3, largely dependent on manpower projections at approximately \$3,590 per semester for each bed. This gap is further complicated by the requirement that all bedrooms must be committed by October of the prior school year in order to compete with off-campus housing contract signing dates (much earlier than most of us experienced as undergraduates).

Our next meeting with the University is scheduled for February 14. **We welcome involvement and contributions from anyone who feels they can help and plan to hold an open AVC call on February 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM on 1-605-475-4825, PIN: 466173#.** We need to make a decision by end of February to give the undergraduate brothers currently committed to living in the Chapter House for 2018-19 time to make other arrangements should we be unable to finalize our financial commitment to continue to live and operate in the Chapter House for next year.

The AVC and other alumni have worked diligently to resolve this challenge for everyone, and will continue to do so as we search for a solution. We encourage folks to call or write any of our AVC members to share your thoughts and suggestions and/or join our February 13th open

call. Brothers Geri Yantis and Bill Thomas have been the most involved with the University negotiation process and will make themselves available for questions and discussion as we continue working through this process.

HFF,

The Alumni and Volunteer Corporation
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