SUBJECT: Regarding Lambda Chi Alpha

DATE: 10/30/2014

Dear Presidents.

This email is to inform you that the Lambda Zeta Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity (LCA) has been closed by their international HQ, for a period of no less than 5 years. The Institute is currently working with the alumni and undergraduate leadership of the chapter to make housing arrangements. As part of their closure, LCA will no longer be recognized by MIT and IFC as an active organization at the Institute until such a time when they may be reopened. The chapter is henceforth expected to cease all activity, including any events, chapter meetings, and social gatherings. In addition, the house is expected to go fully dry and no guests may be permitted until further notice.

I wanted to write this email to clarify some of the reasons behind this action and hopefully avoid unnecessary and potentially damaging speculation by the members of the community. I also believe that, in light of the IFC's new 'sunshine policy', we want to be as forthcoming and transparent as possible while also respecting the privacy of the men of LCA.

First, it is incorrect to attribute this decision completely to the incident that took place this past rush. Up until their closure decision, LCA had been facing multiple pending judicial cases, which included cases of noncompliance with previously issued sanctions and noncompliance with AILG, IFC, and MIT policy. In addition, there are already several cases that the IFC Judicial Committee heard. Among the sanctions LCA received as a result of these cases, social probation is one that was issued twice over the last three years.

More recently, following their suspension by their national chapter and MIT the week of rush, we have reason to believe that the house engaged in at least one unsanctioned social event, which eventually lead to chapter leadership instituting a zero tolerance policy against alcohol in the chapter house. To enforce this policy, an agreement was reached between chapter leadership, the IFC Executive Committee, and the FSILG Office to conduct random alcohol inspections. In the period between the establishment of this agreement and the closure decision, two inspections were conducted with the IFC Risk Manager present. Both inspections failed, with non-negligible amounts of alcohol discovered in each case.

In light of these incidents along with a history of behaviors that we believe jeopardized the longevity of our community, the IFC Executive Committee unanimously supports the closure decision. We want to clarify that we do not support this decision on the basis of any single incident, but rather on a history of persistent and troubling behaviors exhibited by LCA. Despite efforts by several undergraduate and alumni members, whose efforts to restore good standing to their chapter we wholeheartedly commend, we found that the chapter overall continuously failed to take corrective action.

We sincerely hope that our community rise to the occasion of recognizing that we are all privileged to be a part of the MIT fraternity system and that we must all play our part to ensure the longevity of our cherished community. At this time, I encourage all fraternity members to give the members of LCA some space to process the news and not badger them with requests for information as they try to make sense of the current situation.

Interfraternally yours,

Haldun Anil, IFC President