

Brothers,

There are some issues that have been brought to my attention that I was unaware of, some I find troublesome. Some of these issues I thought that I had made myself perfectly clear on, however it is apparent to me that this is not the case. I wish to address those issues now. I will also address a few issues which I am surprised I must even bring up.

Gentlemen let me restate some of the policies which we will adhere to while I hold the office of Grand Exalted Master. Keep in mind that these are not policies that I have created on a whim. These are policies which I have deliberated deeply upon. These policies have been formed after spending the better part of my life listening to the opinions of brothers of all ages, and after discussing the meaning of our noble order, its past, present, and future with far greater men than I consider myself to be.

I believe that I made myself perfectly clear that we will not conduct Grand Council Business on Facebook. As officers of the Grand Council I expect all of you to direct any business related discussions to www.ThetaGamma.com where members may direct their questions to the appropriate officer or officers. You all have the email list which includes all of the officers and advisors of the Grand Council and I expect all of you to use that list as the means by which we will communicate on an executive board level. I expect everyone to share the work of their office with every other officer and our advisors.

Recently it was brought to my attention that an officer of the Grand Council was seeking on Facebook the assistance of an alumnus from one of our chapters to assist him in a project he was working on. When I was asked about that project the only answer that I was able to give was "I do not know anything about it". When I asked that officer about that project the response I was given was "Nothing that has to do with GC". When I explained that, "As an officer of the Grand Council when you make a request for assistance for a project it is taken by the brothers to mean it is a Grand Council project. When people begin asking me what the project is and the only answer I can give is "I do not know." It looks like there is no communication going on. So that being said would you please fill me in as to your project?". As of the time of this email I received no response. We are all officers of the Grand Council, this is not something that can be turned on and off like a light switch. Each of our individual actions are a reflection of the entirety of the Executive Board. It is my expectation, and what I would feel would be a common courtesy, that when I ask a question of any executive officer I would receive an answer.

I have stressed to you all several times my expectation of transparency, open communications, and inclusion of all officers and advisors in discussions of any and all business conducted by every officer in this administration. We have already set a lofty list of goals to achieve within the next eleven months and an agenda for attaining those goals. Furthermore, the list of our ten year goals is very near completion. Let me tell you, if you thought our goals for the year were lofty you better hold on for the ride we are about to take. We have no time to waste, and so we are going to clear the air now, and move forward. Brothers need to check their egos and your personal agendas at the door, and understand this is a team effort and we need team players.

As for the newly elected officers I know that we are all on the same page as far as who is expected to do what. This is evident in how we have all seen and shared the same communications and information, over the course of the last few weeks. What I do not know apparently is what was being done by those officers who were already serving on the board when I took office. To those officers let me make one thing perfectly clear this is no longer the free for all that existed under our previous GEM. I do not know what kind of freedoms the previous GEM may have permitted you, nor do I know what projects you may have undertaken

of your own will, but some things have come to my attention that I am concerned about. It is my expectation that if anyone is currently working on anything other than what I have prescribed to you, in the email that I sent to you with the outline of the 2016 game plan, that you would bring that in front of the rest of the executive board for consideration and review before continuing any further work.

I have been informed that there are some issues with the office of Grand Alumni Secretary which I have great concern about. I do not know if these things were initiated by my predecessor or if they were just assumed responsibilities. These issues need to be discussed with the executive board before any further work continues. The Grand Alumni Secretary will cease working on all of the projects that he currently is working on with the exception of the collection of contact information for alumni, until he has sent via email to each executive officer, and our advisors, a copy of the documents/ initiatives that some of us have not been aware of. This includes an expansion project packet which places him as the contact person for those interested in expansion, his contracts with regents, spread sheets, other documents, and his slush fund. It is my opinion that all of the officers and the advisors of the executive board must be given the opportunity to review this material before we move forward with it.

In accordance with the Grand Council Constitution, “The Grand Secretary Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all Grand Council finances.” Individual officers do not have their own personal slush funds to do with what they want with regards to their office. Individual officers have no business soliciting donations to be used specifically for the benefit of their own office. The collection of any and all money by Grand Council Officers will be given to the Grand Secretary Treasurer to be placed in the Grand Council accounts, to be utilized by the council on those things that the entire body deem fitting. It has been brought to my attention that the Grand Alumni Secretary currently has an account containing \$343.74 that he has solicited in donations and sales of Theta Gamma items for the use of his office at his own discretion. This is unacceptable on many levels. I expect a check for that amount to be sent immediately to the Grand Secretary Treasurer for placement into the Grand Council Account. I will however note that \$60.00 of that was his own personal donation and he may keep that if he so pleases. I expect notification from the Grand Secretary Treasurer that he has received a check for a minimum of \$283.74 within the next week. This is not a debatable topic.

I know and understand that we all have our own thoughts and ideas, beliefs and opinions. Often times we will be unanimous in these feelings, sometimes we will disagree. Those times when we disagree we will need debate, and we owe it to those who have elected us to do just that. When the debate is over and all avenues have been discussed we will move forward with a majority decision, hoping always that the decision we have made will be the correct one, praying that our actions may humbly reflect the glory and beauty that is ever before the throne of our Great Architect. No matter what our personal opinion may be we will stand united as an executive board in backing these decisions, myself included, and will not attempt through subversion nor petty squabbling to undermine the determinations of the majority rule of the executive board.

We have just come off of a two year run in which those outside of the executive board felt that nothing was accomplished, due to poor organization, leadership, in fighting, and lack of communication. I want to change that, and I believe that you are looking to see the same change. It will not happen, however, unless we are willing to set a clear, constant, transparent, and deliberative system by which we conduct ourselves and our communications. The issues that have been recently brought to my attention have made me believe that we have not yet all committed ourselves to that resolve.

We have a decision to make. Before we are able to move forward in a useful and productive manner, and I see you have three options to choose from. Option one, is that each and every one of us resolves himself to work together in the manner that I set forth as the presiding officer of this executive board. Option two, is that you all may come together and decide by a two thirds majority vote to remove me from office as prescribed by the Grand Council Constitution, in which case you may appoint whomever you deem fit to hold this office. Option three, any one of you who feels that they cannot work in accordance with the policies that I put forth, or the majority rule of the executive board, may resign their respective office in which case the executive board will appoint to that position a replacement for the remainder of that term.

The decision my Brothers is yours, and yours alone. I eagerly await your responses knowing that regardless of what each of you decides, until you have made your decision the Grand Council of Theta Gamma will not be able to move forward. So please deliberate deeply upon your decision, but please do not delay your response once you have decided. I thank you all for your time.

Always In The Bonds,

Patrick Carey