



## *Theta Gamma Fraternity - Grand Council*

6/24/2020

B/ÆO – words to live by.

Brothers ALL:

This letter is intended to address a situation which has recently arisen. The Grand Council Executive Board believes it is necessary to address what we perceive as two separate concerns. It is our sincere hope that through this letter, along with the statement contained within it, as well as the reiteration of existing policies and procedures, we may assert the position of the Theta Gamma Fraternity Grand Council, with regards to these concerns. It is our expectation that our Active Chapters and their respective Corporate Boards shall, with all due diligence, take the appropriate steps to ensure that the membership be made aware of our stance in these matters. The first being the topic of *racism*, and the other *adherence to the Theta Gamma Code of Conduct*.

### **Addressing the issue of racism:**

Theta Gamma Fraternity does not condone any form of racism. Theta Gamma has an established moral code of truthfulness, worthiness, unity, trust, brotherhood, and love. The Executive Board of the Grand Council seeks to promote Theta Gamma's highest ideals, while eliminating or mitigating those destructive behaviors which bring out the worst in us. In order to promote continuous improvement as an organization and strive for excellence amongst our membership, the Grand Council Executive Board gives the following statement:

#### *Theta Gamma Fraternity: Anti-Racism Statement*

*Theta Gamma Fraternity affirms its commitment to recognizing, addressing, and eradicating all forms of racism and ethnic oppression. We believe in the diversity of thoughts, ideas, beliefs, experiences; along with the inclusion of people, and we do so with no regard for prejudice. We focus on engaging and collaborating with our membership to teach and encourage open mindedness and inclusion.*

*All forms of racial or ethnic bias are equally unacceptable in an organization such as ours, and any such bias must be addressed. Having such conversations requires courage, respect and compassion, and may not always be comfortable, yet when such conversations take place they must be had with civility in mind. In addition, as a fraternal organization, we will purposefully strive to identify, discuss and challenge issues of race, color, ethnicity, and the impact(s) they have on the fraternity, its membership, and society as a whole.*

*We stand committed to the development and implementation of strategies and best-practices that dismantle racism and ethnic oppression throughout all aspects of our Active Chapters, Corporate Boards, Grand Council, associated educational institutions, community, and society.*

### **Addressing the issue of adherence to the Theta Gamma Code of Conduct:**

B/ÆO – words to live by. This motto sums up Theta Gamma Fraternity. However, what happens when we stray from it? When love turns to division, animosity, and hate, it leads us down a poisonous and contagious path that is unbecoming of a Theta Gamma man. We are surrounded by the negativity, in our daily lives, and in current events. How do we, as TG men, conduct ourselves in a manner which supports the moral and ethical standards of our noble order?

The manner in which we approach situations and the manner in which we respond to others makes all of the difference. Ultimately, we each control the words we choose and the way in which we use them.

Fortunately, being a Theta Gamma man equips us with a sense of civility and the tools necessary to follow a path of love and understanding. Though we profess to all be one, we are all in reality very different, but united within the walls of Theta Gamma. Each of us come from different ethnicities, generations, geographical locations, upbringings, and experiences. As such, we all see the world from a different perspective. Those who truly grasp what our Brotherhood is about realize that our greatest strength lies in these differences. True enlightenment is dependent upon a vast array of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to draw from.



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The topic of conduct unbecoming a Theta Gamma Brother, as relates to social media use, is not new by any means. In fact, it can be traced back to the very beginning of the Theta Gamma Fraternity website, and its Bulletin Board. As the many various avenues by which we communicate have expanded, so too has the problem of our members failing to do so in a manner which reflects the high ideals of our fraternity. As such, the Grand Council has addressed this issue by including a set of guidelines and standards which we expect our members to conduct themselves by on social media. These guidelines are set forth within the Theta Gamma Code of Conduct. Additionally, that document also includes methods by which infractions will be addressed by the Grand Council.

Recent social media threads have been disheartening, to say the least. They proved to be an example, even in our brotherhood, of how destructive and divisive a breakdown of communication can become. The Grand Council Executive Board firmly believes that while these discussions can and should happen, they need to happen peacefully. It is clear that a lack of manners, or the presence of downright rudeness, is a failure of civility in public discourse. This failure is a form of disrespect which is not justified within our brotherhood. No matter the substance of the discussion, civility must always remain. Civility, thus really, is a virtue of public discourse, and as Theta Gamma men, "By Love We Conquer" ought to be a way of life.

We hope the recent social media threads serve as a teachable moment for us all. It is our desire that going forward our membership will approach any further discussions with open-mindedness and civility. B^EO

FITB,  
The Grand Council Executive Board  
Theta Gamma Fraternity