



Two-and-a Half Years Later: Our Annual Chapter Update



The following information is a summary of the last two and a half years of alumni involvement with Gamma Theta, meant to provide an overview of the current state of our chapter. We need to continuously evaluate the number of actives who may return, the rehabilitation of both the chapter membership and the physical structure, and the financial ramifications of going forward.

Many events have happened over the past 2 ½ years, and this message hopefully hits the highlights and provides our areas of focus:

Gamma Theta Chapter

The University of Idaho and Kappa Sigma Fraternity placed the chapter on probation in May 2020 with the House Corporation Board's agreement. The probation period will officially end in January 2023.

An Alumni Board of Control (ABOC) was set up in 2020 focusing on the chapter's active undergraduates' responsibilities with the University and Kappa Sigma national. The corporation board continues to oversee the chapter house's physical structure. This ABOC was modeled after the ABOC in the early 1990s. The ABOC in the 1990s was disbanded after a couple of years. There is currently no planned end date for the current ABOC. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING WITH THE ABOC OR CORPORATION BOARD PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO GammaThetaCorp@outlook.com.

The University held a meeting in September 2021 to review the chapter's progress. The University and Alumni agreed that the chapter had met or exceeded all probation

requirements. With this, the chapter was allowed to have formal exchanges with other Greek houses on campus.

Alcohol - the chapter currently does not allow alcohol on the premises. This may or may not change in January 2023 when probation is lifted. This is a major issue with ALL fraternities/sororities and will be continuously addressed by the ABOC.

There are currently 17 active members of Kappa Sigma on campus. The chapter currently does not have members living in the house, but they use the house daily for studying, social functions, self-directed meals (no cooking staff), etc.

Gamma Theta is currently not a member of the Interfraternity Council (IFC), but will be eligible for IFC membership in January 2023. There is a cost to be a member of IFC, and currently, we see no cost benefit to rejoining. We have notified IFC of our decision to stay independent with the possibility of rejoining at a future time.

Rush is currently handled outside the IFC structure with very positive results during the 2021-22 academic year.

Physical Structure - 918 Blake Ave.

During the summer of 2020, there was an emergency request for funds to stabilize the house's finances. Approximately \$85,000 were raised within a couple of months. A portion of the money was used to pay off prior bills: including overdue notices from City of Moscow (utilities), Avista (utilities), College Chefs (food services), initial trash clean-up around the outside of the house, grounds maintenance for the 2020 summer, past due composite bills, refrigeration maintenance/past due bills, various inspection bills, electrical maintenance/past due bills, a new house-wide water softener and other costs for ongoing maintenance. The initial \$85,000 funds are currently coming to an end this summer (2022).

A \$5,000 fine was also paid to Kappa Sigma national for investigating the chapter suspension during the 2019-20 academic year. 11 members were removed from Kappa Sigma in March 2020.

The past 2 ½ years have also included alumni work parties to clean out abandoned items and remove prior structural "additions" to bedrooms. Some highlights include 35 large/full pickup loads of items in rooms taken to the dump and most of the "sky racks" have been disassembled on 1st and 2nd decks.

The kitchen is somewhat usable and will need some appliance updates to get back to a functioning kitchen.

The dining room has had the ceiling tiles replaced and the walls repainted.

A group of Vietnam Vet alumni (and wives) replaced the North Parlor carpet and repainted the walls and ceiling. They also sponsored the installation of a front lawn sprinkler system this summer.

The South Parlor is currently in good condition for the short term. Paint and chandelier replacement will be on the list at a further date.

The plan is to get the upstairs rooms to a state where we can begin to finish them for members to live in. There was extensive damage to the upstairs - all doors/jams were damaged; closets damaged; walls damaged; ceiling tiles damaged; windows are in varied states. We would like to rehabilitate the 2nd deck rooms to a livable status and are currently working on a plan to move forward. The 2nd deck status for the summer of 2022 is still the removal and cleanup of the damaged areas.

Locks have been installed on the 3rd deck hall doors until there are funds to rehabilitate those rooms. The sun deck is no longer available for use due to liability (insurance).



Sprinklers have been installed on the front lawn.

What happens next?

We are focused on both the rehabilitation of the chapter and of the physical structure.

The ABOC currently has several members with member additions and changes as needed. The board will control all chapter activities during the probationary period and work directly with the officers/chapter to rehabilitate Gamma Theta. The ABOC will continue operation as a separate entity from the Corporation Board. Still, the two groups will work together to meet the probationary conditions, stabilize our finances, and keep the chapter healthy.

Over many years, but especially 2017-19, Gamma Theta's physical structure has been extensively damaged by the actives (including out-of-house members). Much work is needed to meet health and safety requirements as well as simply making the house livable.

There are several "positives" to the current situation:

1. We have developed very productive lines of communication between the actives, National, and UI
2. If we are successful in rehabilitation of the chapter, Kappa Sigma can serve as a model and resource for other fraternities facing similar problems;
3. When the "alarm" sounded, many alums have come forward with offers of help/support;
4. Our sense is that our alumni will do what it takes to be certain the oldest Greek house on campus lives on and again becomes the organization what we all love and remember.

Upcoming Events

Another work party will be held this fall October 6-8 at the chapter house.

We are planning to send a request for funding this summer. We will provide a financial status and the plan/cost estimate to rehabilitate the 2nd deck to get actives living in the house for the fall 2023.

How Can You Help?

Please send questions to GammaThetaCorp@outlook.com or alumniboard@918blake.com

Alumni Board of Control, Gamma Theta Chapter of Kappa Sigma
Gamma Theta House Corporation



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