



## Substance-Free Facilities: FAQ

### 1. Why was a substance-free facilities policy necessary?

- a. Fraternities, including SigEp, have developed a reputation of being organizations that exist to promote alcohol consumption. Our money and time are spent on parties. We are known in the media and in our campus communities as havens for drinking. That must change for SigEp. Removing alcohol from our chapter facilities sends a clear message about what we value and what we do not value.
- b. Many brothers spend most of their time with SigEp at a chapter facility. The substance-free facilities policy does not prevent chapters from having social events, but it does help ensure that our chapter facilities do not become havens for underage drinking. Our chapter facilities must be environments in which it is easy to do right and hard to do wrong. The policy is intended to make chapter environments safer and attract top recruits to SigEp.
- c. Over 90% of the men living in fraternity facilities are under 21 years of age. See question #2 below for more statistics on how substance-free facility policies have strengthened SigEp chapters.

### 2. How do chapters that currently have some sort of substance-free facility policy compare to those that do not have such a policy?

<b>Substance-free Comparative Data<sup>1</sup></b>		
	<b>Housed Chapters with No Substance-free Facilities Policy</b>	<b>Housed Chapters with a Substance-free Facilities Policy<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Number of chapters</b>	85	70
<b>GPA (Fall '16)</b>	3.07	3.24
<b>Above All-Campus Average</b>	43%	86%
<b>Average Membership</b>	64	81
<b>Recruitment Average (Fall '16)</b>	16	22
<b>Insurance Claims (past 5 years)</b>	18	10
<b>Total Payout (to date)</b>	\$3,389,474	\$150,682
<b>Average per chapter</b>	\$39,876	\$2,152

### 3. How is the National Fraternity going to help chapters implement this policy?

- a. Some chapters will need assistance to meet the deadlines set by the Grand Chapter of removing alcohol from common spaces by August 1, 2018, and removing all alcohol from chapter facilities by August 1, 2020. To that end, the Headquarters staff will

<sup>1</sup> Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity Chapter Reported Data

<sup>2</sup> All policies regulating alcohol in chapter facilities including 28 completely substance-free facilities

provide education and resources to both undergraduates and volunteers, and create regional peer networks to connect officers with the leadership of chapters that have previously implemented a substance-free facilities policy. See questions below for more information on the specific resources and education that will be provided.

- b. The National Board of Directors and Headquarters staff will also advocate that other national fraternities pursue substance-free facilities policies and will actively seek funding to offset the chapter cost of shifting recruitment models and facilitation of third-party education on substance abuse and interpersonal violence prevention.

**4. What education will the Headquarters staff provide?**

- a. In the final resolution passed by the Grand Chapter, delegates charged the Headquarters staff with supporting chapters as they implement this policy. The staff will provide hands-on training at each of our leadership programs (Carlson Leadership Academies, Ruck Leadership Institutes, Cox Volunteer Institutes and Grand Chapter Conclaves), as well as prepare regional directors to directly assist chapters, volunteers and alumni as they make the transition to substance-free facilities.
- b. In particular, regional directors will focus on helping chapters recruit on a substance-free facilities message, and prepare and transition newly elected executive officers, among other efforts. Of course, the Headquarters staff will be readily available at any time to provide additional personalized assistance as needed.

**5. What resources will the Headquarters staff provide?**

- a. The staff has created a series of resources including this FAQ and a one-page overview document that can be found [online here](#), along with several other specific implementation resources. The page and resources will be updated continuously throughout the year leading up to officer elections, the Carlson Leadership Academy season, and the deadlines outlined in the legislation.
- b. The staff will continue to produce online resources based on feedback and the needs of undergraduates and volunteers. If you have feedback on existing resources or suggestions for new resources, please email [substance.free.facilities@sigep.net](mailto:substance.free.facilities@sigep.net).

**6. What steps will the National Board of Directors and Headquarters staff take to advocate that other fraternities adopt substance-free facilities policies?**

- a. The National Board and Headquarters staff have already met with some of our fraternal peer organizations last month in Indianapolis and begun this conversation. Multiple national organizations were already pursuing similar substance-free facilities policies, and several more expressed interest in taking similar steps with their organizations in the near future. Both the Board and Headquarters staff will continue this conversation in the future.

**7. What funding will be provided for chapters to make changes to their facility to comply with the substance-free facilities policy?**

- a. There already exists a Chapter Investment Fund (CIF) for each chapter, the funds of which are used to finance improvements to chapter facilities. These funds are accessible via application. Learn more at CIF link or contact [Zach.Stull@sigep.net](mailto:Zach.Stull@sigep.net) for more information.
- b. [Resolution 2](#) calls for the creation of a national grant to support facility alterations. More information will be published as it is available.

**8. Will SigEp allow members to resign and join other organizations if they want to leave as a result of this legislation?**

- a. Yes. The National Fraternity will release the membership of any member(s) who feels that a substance-free chapter facility policy is inconsistent with his values or what he desires from his undergraduate experience.

**9. Why is there a staggered timeline for implementation?**

- a. [Resolution 2](#) gives chapters one year to expressly prohibit alcohol from common spaces in facilities and three years to make chapter facilities completely substance-free. This staggered timeline was specifically added in order to give chapters time to revise their practices and thoroughly and successfully implement the policy.

**10. What action will the National Fraternity and Headquarters staff take in regards to any chapters who refuse to implement substance-free facilities policies by the deadlines?**

- a. The National Fraternity will provide extensive support and training to any chapter leaders and alumni volunteers who want help in implementing this policy. It is the duty of the Fraternity's Board of Directors to hold accountable and review the charter status of chapters who refuse to implement any policy set by the Grand Chapter. As a result, the Board of Directors is prepared to make charter or membership decisions for chapters who refuse to implement this policy.

**11. Will substance-free housing hurt our recruitment and membership?**

- a. Fraternities as they exist now are facing a crisis. Only 11% of students come to campus interested in joining a fraternity. This declining interest has coincided with the fact that members of Fraternities are far more likely to drink in excess than the average student.
- b. Experience tells us that SigEp chapters with substance-free facilities policies recruit better and have stronger manpower than housed chapters without such policies (see data in question #2 above).
- c. Furthermore, [data from across higher education](#) tells us that in fall 2015, total undergraduate enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions increased of 30 percent from 2000. It further points to undergraduate enrollment increasing by 14 percent between 2015 and 2026.
- d. In short, in addition to the data provided by SigEp chapters with substance-free facilities policies, there is a massive group of potential new members growing each year that appear likely to join chapters with substance-free facility policies. The substance-free

facilities policy is meant to help create a new pool of potential brothers who are attracted to our values and attracted to the fraternity for the right reasons.

**12. Can chapter alumni host events with alcohol under the substance-free facility policy mandated?**

- a. Yes. The Resolution states that chapters' Alumni Volunteer Corporations (AVCs) can host up to six events at a chapter facility per year, as long as those events follow certain stipulations. Read the full text of [Resolution 2 online here](#). In the coming weeks, the Fraternity will produce and publicize a resource explaining how alumni can hold events like these per our policies.

**13. Doesn't this increase risk by pushing alcohol to annex properties and increasing risks like drinking and driving?**

- a. Making chapter facilities substance-free doesn't eliminate risk. The goal is not risk elimination; it is risk reduction and long-term culture change. Substance-free chapter environments attract a quality of man who is not as focused on alcohol. We believe that having chapters full of men who joined a substance-free chapter will lead to better decision-making around risk management. In addition, regardless of this new policy, the expectation was and remains that individuals would be safe, responsible and respectful with their choices about consumption of alcohol wherever that occurs.
- b. Our data validates this concept: chapters with a substance-free policy are 23% less likely to have a member safety incident or sanction and over the past five years have been 33% less likely to have insurance claims related to incidents.

**14. How will a substance-free facility policy impact SigEp's national insurance costs?**

- a. Data tells us substance-free facility policies will lead to fewer and less severe incidents.
- b. Insurance companies calculate bills based on a five-year accident history. We believe that the policy will make our members and chapters safer and reduce incidents, which will lower insurance costs over time.

**15. How does this policy change SigEp's risk management policies?**

- a. The policy does not change SigEp's risk management policies, which are always in effect. It only changes where chapters can have social events with alcohol. Beginning August 1, 2018, chapters must adopt policies removing all alcohol from common spaces of chapter facilities; beginning August 1, 2020, chapters must adopt policies making all chapter facilities completely substance-free.