Date: February 15, 2012

To: Fraternity and Sorority Community Council Officers and Chapter Presidents (via email)

From: Ashley A. Dye, Assistant Dean of Students

Re: Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day

Hello. I hope the semester is going well for you and your organization. Many of you know that “Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day” ("Unofficial") will be taking place in approximately two weeks on March 2nd. Please allow this letter to serve as documentation regarding the stance of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs on “Unofficial” events as well as requests for you as chapter and council leaders.

“Unofficial” is in no way supported as a concept or in its facilitation by the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of the Dean of Students, or Fraternity & Sorority Affairs. We believe this event to be in direct contradiction to the institution’s mission of providing a sound educational experience. It interferes with this process and places many of our students and community members in danger while reflecting poorly on the university. It also conflicts with the mission of our Fraternity & Sorority community and the values of your fraternal organization.

Fraternity & Sorority Affairs has asked the governing councils to place a ban on any chapter social activities held on March 1st and 2nd. The leadership of the governing councils agreed that this is in the best interest of our community and the health and safety of all members. You should expect to receive correspondence from the council your chapter is a member of reinforcing this mandate and any other expectations they have for their member organizations related to “Unofficial”.

All organizations should share with their members that their individual actions will be closely monitored by police and the institution during “Unofficial”. Individuals choosing to act as organizational agents will be dealt with individually and could put the organization in jeopardy of being disciplined as well.

If you have a chapter house, I strongly encourage you to provide your regular food service as well as an ample supply of snack foods and alcohol free beverages for your members on this day. I would also highly recommend that your organization discusses the implementation of a “no guest” policy for this weekend. Taking on the extra responsibility of guests is just not worth it! Please also review strategies related to intervening should someone drink too much. You can find information at http://www.brad21.org/alcohol_poisoning.html and http://awareawakealive.org/educate/know-the-signs among numerous other places on the internet. Resources are also available throughout campus at McKinley Health Center and The Counseling Center.

Should someone drink too much and need help, please do not hesitate to call and get them help. When students who are incapacitated are taken to the hospital, the Emergency Dean is notified. Transportation due to incapacitation (alcohol overdose) reported to the Emergency Dean does not result in discipline; rather a mandatory assessment by a representative of McKinley Health Center will be assigned. If you believe someone should be transported, call 911. You will not get in trouble!

Finally, we would like the fraternity and sorority community to lead the way in responsible behavior on “Unofficial”. Please take the necessary steps to ensure that responsible behavior is the standard and expectation for your chapter members.

CC: Chapter Advisors, House Corporation Presidents and Headquarters Representatives
Gina Lee-Olukoya, Associate Dean of Students
Kenneth T. Ballom, Dean of Students