

STATEMENT of POSITION on DRUG ABUSE

WHEREAS, Beta Theta Pi recognizes that drug abuse has become a significant problem in North America; a problem that we can no longer turn our backs on; and,

WHEREAS, keeping in mind that our great and good fraternity has been the pioneer in the fraternity world in forthrightly addressing significant problems, which if unresolved, would affect its devotion to the principles for which it was founded, the time has come for Beta Theta Pi to set the standard for all fraternities and to lead the way as only we know how; and,

WHEREAS, we formally recognize that drug abuse is conduct unbecoming a member of our fine fraternity; in taking a stand on this timely issue, we demonstrate not only the strength of our Beta character, but also the moral and societal awareness of our brothers; and,

WHEREAS, we must be willing to put an end to drug abuse--and once again Beta Theta Pi must show itself to be a leader among fraternities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Miscellaneous Affairs Committee of the 147th General Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, August 5-8, 1986, the following positions are adopted and are included in the General Fraternity's Statement on Positions:

1. We charge the General Fraternity to immediately draft drug awareness literature to be sent out to all chapters and colonies and to the administrators of their respective universities and colleges. The chapter executive councils will be charged with clearly communicating the literature to its members.
2. The General Fraternity will institute a drug awareness program at all Beta Leadership Workshops. This program must run for at least two successive years to ensure that every chapter has the opportunity to participate.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be distributed to every chapter and colony that they may fully comprehend the position that the 147th General Convention has taken on the issue of drug abuse.
4. We strongly suggest the General Fraternity shall seek a professionally trained drug counselor, preferably a Beta, who will work with the Administrative Staff and who will travel to those chapters experiencing drug abuse problems.
5. We strongly suggest that the Beta Theta Pi pledge manual, the Son of the Stars, contain a statement of the fraternity's position on the issue of drug abuse.
6. If the General Secretary finds, with good cause, that a chapter has a drug abuse problem, he will ask the chapter in question to meet with said counselor to implement a program that will alleviate the problem.
7. If the chapter refuses to meet with the counselor, the General Secretary holds the right to suspend the charter of that chapter. Keep in mind that, all along, it is up to the chapter to rid itself of its drug problem. If the chapter refuses to take action, the General Secretary will be empowered to take any action that he may deem necessary.