Dear Parents,

Brotherhood, community service, philanthropies, academics, campus involvement, social networks and support are just a few of the potential features we would highlight from your son’s membership in a Greek organization. On behalf of the Fraternity Housing and Greek Life staff, we welcome you, as parents, as well as your son, to fraternity life at Southern Miss. We are excited your son decided to participate in men’s fraternity recruitment and to join a Greek letter organization.

You may think it is odd being welcomed to the Greek system as a parent, but those of us in Greek Life and Fraternity Housing are keenly aware of the value of your role. It is our intent that you will see us as partners in helping to ensure your son’s success as a student. To that end, it is our goal to communicate regularly with you and to be available to answer any questions you might have throughout his college career. We are committed to enhancing your awareness and insight into the intricacies of Greek life and to the obligations, responsibilities, and procedures associated with membership in a fraternity.

Foremost, it is our desire to be sure you are knowledgeable of the commitment your son is making. Joining a fraternity is not an act for a couple of years or even just as an undergraduate. Being a member of a Greek letter organization is truly a lifetime commitment. Throughout his experience from pre- and post-initiation to serving his organization after graduation, fraternity is forever. He will want, and be expected, to be a contributing active and alumni member to further the growth and development of his chapter. The obligations he undertakes, and the experiences he will encounter, will endear him to his chapter, his brothers and to his institution.

Toward the goal of ensuring your involvement and awareness of the expectations of fraternity membership, we are enclosing a copy of the “Membership Card” which is signed by all new fraternity members. This document focuses on our expectations of behavior toward hazing and our four-semester residency requirement, to begin the fall semester immediately following signing a membership card. In addition, we want to be sure you are aware of your son’s intent on becoming a fraternity member. It is imperative your son not sign a contract for living off campus until he completes his residency requirement. His failure to reside in his chapter’s house will result in a housing fee (draft fee) being assessed to his university account. We welcome any questions you have on these topics and are available to offer any clarifications.

Again, we look forward to having your family join ours in the Greek system. We are honored to have the opportunity to get to know and work with your son. Please contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your trust.

Sincerely,

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