



February 24, 2022

Dear Members of Omicron Chapter at Tufts University,

What follows is an extremely belated apology from the national council of Sigma Kappa Sorority for the closure of Omicron Chapter in 1956. In 2020, we set a goal for Sigma Kappa to model a diverse, inclusive, equitable and accessible membership experience among the women's fraternal organizations. One fundamental part of achieving that goal is coming to terms with Sigma Kappa's history, which has not always reflected inclusion as a priority.

In 2020, we formed a history task force to research, document and acknowledge organizational discrimination in Sigma Kappa's history. The group's work is detailed in the article *Acknowledging the Past, Looking toward the Future* in the Winter 2022 issue of the *Sigma Kappa Triangle*. In 1956, Omicron Chapter pledged two Black women, Terrie Williams Schachter and Eleanor Turpin Murrell. We understand that because of that offer of membership to Eleanor and Terrie, the national council revoked Omicron's charter later that year and gave no explanation for its decision when pressed by members of the chapter and the dean of Tufts' Jackson Women's College. We cannot imagine the hurt, harm and pain which this caused the members of your chapter. Please know that we will strive to make sure that no one else feels this way in Sigma Kappa.

These events are probably not news to you, nor were they unknown to Sigma Kappa over the years. But we had never collected the relevant documents, acknowledged what happened, or apologized for it. We are deeply sorry for the closure of Omicron Chapter, and we also regret that our apology has lingered for so long.

We recognize that you may have mixed feelings about hearing from Sigma Kappa after all this time. We hope that our letter can bring some closure and validation to your experience. As young college students, your instinct for inclusion was the right one, and Sigma Kappa failed you. It is important that you hear that from us. Please know that as we have reflected on the closure of Omicron Chapter, we have renewed our commitment to having honest conversations about policies and practices in Sigma Kappa that are inconsistent with what we are trying to achieve: a special place where all members can feel a deep sense of respect, belonging, and support through the lifelong bond of sorority. We also understand with clarity the importance of engaging with our chapters in conversations about inclusion and change when they look to us for guidance or invite us to the table.

We recognize that you may have withdrawn your membership in Sigma Kappa decades ago, which we can certainly understand. If you are ever interested in rejoining our sisterhood, it would be our honor to reinstate your membership. More generally, if you are willing to reflect with us about your Sigma Kappa

experience and how it has impacted you, we would welcome a conversation. Please contact Mallory Simmons, director of publications, at history@sigmakappa.org or 317-381-5502, and we will reach out.

We cannot change what happened in the past, but we have an unlimited capacity—inspired by you—to spread love and friendship through the power of inclusion. We hope that you will accept our apology on behalf of Sigma Kappa, or at the very least find comfort in knowing that all these years later, your bravery continues to inspire reflection and change.

Loyally in Sigma Kappa,



Ann O'Connell Adams
National President



Jordan Archer
National Vice President for Extension



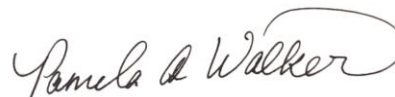
Angie Naniot Ahrens
National Vice President for Alumnae



Christian Mattingly Gamm
National Vice President for Programming



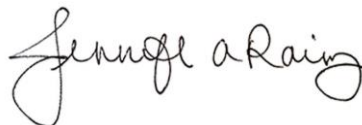
Meaghan Miller Thul
National Vice President for Collegiate Chapters



Pamela Mosher Walker
National Vice President for Communication



Kathleen Brangan Held
National Vice President for Membership



Jennifer Challenger Rainey
National Vice President for Finance