



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

Greetings from Rocky Top!

At the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, we believe collaboration and healthy partnerships are a vital piece to effective student organization accountability. As such, Student Conduct & Community Standards (SCCS) and the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life (OSFL) are reaching out to provide an update to our [Inter/National Organization & Advisor Conduct Notification Process](#).

In the past, OSFL notified headquarters staff after an [Educational Conference](#) was held with the Chapter President and Chapter Advisor. SCCS typically only reached out to headquarters staff in advance when egregious allegations of misconduct were being made. Beginning this Spring 2022 semester, SCCS will notify headquarters staff in advance of all Educational Conferences by copying them on the [Written Notice of Educational Conference](#) sent to the Chapter President. This will allow the Chapter President, Chapter Advisor, and identified Headquarters staff member to all be simultaneously notified via email.

UTK is committed to collaborating with Inter/National organizations (I/NOs) and Chapter Advisors throughout the student organization conduct process and believe that this change will help strengthen our partnership approach. It is important to note, UTK is an institution that investigates all [Student Code of Conduct](#) allegations made against student organizations, including anonymous reports. This means Headquarters may receive more notifications of alleged misconduct than in the past. However, this does not mean more incidents are occurring; it means we are looping you in sooner, even on minor violations of the Code that may end up dismissed. When the nature of the alleged incident is more severe and warrants possible interim action, SCCS will continue to make direct contact as quickly as possible by email and/or phone in addition to the Written Notice of Educational Conference.

Transparency in process is where effective partnerships begin. As such, all updated Student Organization Conduct Process documents can all be found on [SCCS's website](#) by clicking on the Student Organization tab. For your convenience, we've also attached them to this email.

Effective organizational accountability is not easy and involves key stakeholders at every level who are committed to positive change. We know this can be hard work. However, it is some of the most important, impactful, and necessary work that can be done. We are uniquely poised to be catalysts for positive change when difficult situations arise and we consider it a privilege to do this work alongside each of you.

We look forward to collaborating with you.

Respectfully,

Amanda Newman Samsel
Director of Student Conduct & Community Services

John W. Keith
Director, Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life

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