

Chronology of Student Judicial Process for Phi Delta Theta at Georgia Tech

- 8/11/2015 Incident involving allegations of racial slurs by members of Phi Delta Theta
- 8/13/2015 Complaint filed with Georgia Tech Police Department; referred to the Office of Student Integrity (OSI)
- 8/19/2015 OSI meets with complainant
- 8/31/2015 Phi Delta Theta receives notice of charges from OSI
- 9/3/2015 OSI meets with president of Phi Delta Theta and their legal counsel
- 9/10/2015 Phi Delta Theta notifies OSI that they wish to have their case heard by the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet (UJC)
- 9/15/2015 Student Government Association Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet hearing
- 9/22/2015 UJC issues recommendation to OSI
OSI affirms UJC's recommendation of sanctions and disseminates decision: suspension held in abeyance until Aug. 9, 2016. Under suspension held in abeyance, involvement at the Institute is restricted to 1) academic activities, and 2) non-academic activities specifically approved by the Office of Student Integrity.
- 9/29/2015 Phi Delta Theta files appeal to Dean of Students
- 10/13/2015 Suspension in abeyance upheld by Dean of Students
(Note: At that time, the decision could not be appealed to the President)
- 10/27/2015 President G. P. "Bud" Peterson requests that an [independent working group](#) review the process for investigating and resolving alleged violations of the Institute's Code of Conduct. The group was chaired by Nels Peterson (no relation), then chief legal officer and secretary to the Board of Regents.
- 12/15/2015 The independent working group found that in 95 percent of the approximately 700 cases per year where the facts were not in dispute, the policies and procedures in place at Georgia Tech work well and are consistent with best practices nationally. The [group recommended refinements](#) to improve current policies.
- 12/23/2015 President Peterson initiated the process to make [clarifications and refinements](#).
- 12/26/15 President Peterson sent a [memorandum](#) to John Stein, VP for Student Life and Dean of Students, stating he will entertain an "extraordinary appeal" in the Phi Delta Theta case as if it were a suspension or expulsion. He requested that the Institute revisit the case because two of the issues identified in the working group report may have had an impact on the case: 1) If the sanction of suspension held in abeyance is imposed and there is a subsequent violation, there is no opportunity for appeal of the suspension, and 2) the perception of bias on the part of the Appellate Officer might exist because of John Stein's dual role as Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs. In the Phi Delta Theta

case, Peterson said that he would appoint an independent, third party to review the appeal and make recommendations to him.

Peterson also said that he would entertain an appeal from the decision of the Appellate Officer in other cases of suspension in abeyance.

- 1/14/16 At Peterson's request, Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia the Honorable [Leah Ward Sears](#) undertakes an independent third party review the Phi Delta Theta case process, findings and recommendations.
- 1/15/2016 In response to President Peterson's request on 12/23, suggested refinements to the investigatory process as part of the Student Judicial System were presented to him. He forwarded the recommendations to the [Faculty Standing Committee on Student Regulations](#) for review in their Jan. 28, 2016 meeting, along with a request that they be implemented at the earliest possible date.
- 1/25/16 President Peterson appeared before a subcommittee of the state's House Appropriations Committee. He was invited to speak to the legislators on the topic of due process and how it is applied in student judiciary proceedings at Tech and within the University System of Georgia.
- 2/16/2016 Georgia Tech's [Academic Faculty Senate](#) made clarifications and refinements to the Student Code of Conduct. The sanction of Suspension in Abeyance is to be eliminated as part of the Student Judicial Process.
- 2/23/2016 Justice Sears issued succinct summary overview, and a 30-page report and recommendation. The report concluded that the fraternity received due process in accordance with Georgia Tech's Student Code of Conduct, and there was sufficient evidence for the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet to conclude that the events of August 11, 2015 occurred. Sears also concluded the fraternity's leadership was not complicit in the acts. Therefore, she recommended the sanction be lifted because the Institute's policies require that leadership of an organization must be complicit before the entire organization can be sanctioned for the actions of a few of its members.
- 2/24/2016 Upon reviewing Justice Sears' recommendation, President Peterson decided to vacate the sanction of suspension held in abeyance imposed in September 2015 for Phi Delta Theta fraternity.