



**\*\* For Immediate Release \*\***

## **FarmHouse Closes Missouri Chapter**

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COLUMBIA, Mo. —Today, officials from FarmHouse International Fraternity announced the closure of its chapter at the University of Missouri, and MU officials affirmed support for that decision in a letter to the chapter. This outcome was based on findings from a joint investigation the fraternity conducted with the university in response to credible allegations of violations of the campus and fraternity’s hazing and alcohol policies.

“Our top priority is to foster a culture of safety and responsibility in our chapters,” said Christian Wiggins, FarmHouse International Fraternity CEO. “The chapter’s actions, including failing to adhere to the national organization’s hazing and alcohol policies, were in direct contradiction to FarmHouse values and our code of conduct. We will not tolerate this kind of behavior in the fraternity, and we appreciate the university’s partnership as we have worked through the investigation and arrived at this conclusion.”

Additionally, because FarmHouse is a fraternity and is not affiliated with any MU school or college and the alleged violations occurred off-campus, the case has been turned over to the Columbia Police Department for further investigation. MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said the university will assist with the Columbia Police Department investigation in any way needed.

“We fully support this action by FarmHouse International, and I will not tolerate this type of behavior,” Cartwright said. “There are many students trying to do the right thing and change certain aspects of the Greek culture, including hazing and alcohol use, here and across the country. We appreciate the cooperation we are receiving from FarmHouse headquarters and will continue our work to make the MU Greek community a model for the nation.”

During the fall 2017 semester, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gary Ward hired Dyad Strategies to analyze the Greek community. The initial report was released in October and presented several recommendations to improve the Greek experience at MU. Since that time, Dyad Strategies staff members have been holding discussions among alumni, friends of the university, students, staff and faculty to review the report and recommendations. Decisions related to some recommendations are expected before the end of the current semester.

“We are committed to ensuring students can come to Mizzou and benefit from fraternities and sororities in a safe and educational manner,” Ward said. “Any person or action that compromises the safety of students on our campuses will be dealt with swiftly and strongly. Every student and parent should know that I am committed to making Mizzou’s Greek community a national model that provides students with an excellent and safe collegiate experience. We have a rich tradition of a vibrant Greek community at Mizzou that has benefited thousands of lives throughout its history.”

*FarmHouse Fraternity is a men’s agriculturally-related collegiate social fraternity founded in 1905 at the University of Missouri by seven men committed to building men through a four-*

*fold development—intellectually, socially/morally, spiritually and physically. In its 112-year history the fraternity has initiated 30,000 members and installed 50 chapters at major public research universities across North America. The Fraternity maintains a headquarters office in Kansas City, Mo. More information about the Fraternity, including its history, educational programming and life-long membership affiliation opportunities is available online at [www.farmhouse.org](http://www.farmhouse.org).*

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