Kappa Alpha Order’s statement regarding revised Fraternity Operating Agreement.

For any questions, contact:

Jesse S. Lyons
Assistant Executive Director for Advancement
jlvyons@ka-order.org
540-463-1865

Kappa Alpha Order is not signing the new Fraternity Operating Agreement (FOA) for two reasons:

The University violated the previous FOA as well as student individual and organizational rights. The system-wide suspension, which was initiated for reasons that were found to be untrue, unfairly punished all members of fraternities and sororities. It was maintained and used as leverage to require the changes to the FOA. Because we do not accept the validity of a suspension imposed in contravention of the existing FOA, university policy, Virginia law and the constitutional rights of our members, we are not compelled to sign a revised FOA to continue operations on campus.

Second, Kappa Alpha Order's own risk management policies, much like the policies of all national fraternities and sororities, are as strict or more strict than this new FOA. Our chapter will comply with the more restrictive of the policies in its activities. We are concerned that the university’s revision to the FOA may create new liability for individual members of our organizations that is more properly a duty to be borne by the university itself.

Together, these circumstances set a dangerous precedent of an erosion of student and organizational rights.

Kappa Alpha Order fully welcomes the opportunity to work with UVA on continuing dialogue of partnership and risk management education. This should occur on an ongoing basis, not under these pretenses.

###

Kappa Alpha Order and its first chapter were founded upon the principles of gentlemanly conduct, with excellence as its aim, at what is now Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Those values remain the focus of the Order today. Kappa Alpha Order has grown to 129 chapters in 27 states. Currently, there are near 7,500 undergraduate members, over 130,000 living initiated members, and well over 160,000 initiates in its history. More information about Kappa Alpha Order is available online, at www.KappaAlphaOrder.org.