To the University of Maryland Community and Beyond,

The IFC was made aware of the insensitive email from January 2014 on March 12, 2015 written by a member of a fraternity to several others.

As a Council, we will not hide from this, we will not defend this, nor will we tolerate this type of behavior. I am devastated by the impact this is having on individuals within our Greek community, University community, and beyond. Thus, we must do all that we can to participate in the healing process for those hurt.

To start, we must take action against any destructive or horrific mindsets. This type of culture is unacceptable and we will not allow an individual on our campus or within our communities to have these types of thoughts against women or those of differing cultural backgrounds.

The IFC executive board specifically aims to make our recruitment more inclusive and a safer environment for those who hope to find a home and brotherhood for themselves in College Park. We strive to make our brotherhoods safe places for students of any background or orientation so that they may find a circle within the university that shares their vision, hopes, and values. The IFC and the Greek community hold tremendous pride for the members within our organizations. They specifically reflect the incredible diversity that our campus and DC area demonstrate and foster. The founding values of each organization within our council reflect that commitment to every member and seek only to find those who believe in the pillars of respect, integrity, and unity, regardless of their identity.

Thus, those who read the email should be upset, should be surprised, and should expect better; because the IFC does. True fraternity men will not allow that mindset to infect the positive and enriching culture that so many have fought to create within our organizations. We will do whatever we can to eradicate any tolerance of violence against women, disrespect of a woman's consent, or exclusion of others based upon race, creed, or orientation.

We understand the severity of the mistakes that have been made in our own community and nation-wide. Although not all of these mistakes are brought to national attention, they still affect the community every day. It is set upon the shoulders of 2200 members of the IFC to stand up now and counteract the racist, violent, and hateful actions of 1 student.

My own fraternity holds the creed, "Every man a man;" representing the respect and love that all human kind should be shown. The blatant and disgraceful comments referenced in the email devalue the empowerment of women and the self-worth of others’ cultural backgrounds. The executive board and I will remain committed to finding the most constructive students in order to build the University of Maryland’s community and promote a sexually safe and racially accepting environment based upon strength of moral character.

While the InterFraternity Council will take all actions deemed necessary to ensure every organization and member understands the vitality of the safety and acceptance of all, we refuse to operate in a bubble. We welcome any suggestions, challenges, and input from the University community at large in helping direct us to our next actions and providing productive resources for the men in both the short and long term.

Sincerely,

Paul Becker and the InterFraternity Council Executive Board

Paul Becker
IFC President
University of Maryland