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Cornell Trustee Comes to the Defense of His Fraternity

ITHACA, N.Y.—Angry about the way disciplinary proceedings against his fraternity have been handled, John S. Dyson, a Cornell University trustee, said last week that he would take the unusual step of bringing the fraternity's case to the board of trustees at a meeting on Friday in New York City.

Mr. Dyson, who ran for the United States Senate in New York in 1986 and has held several prominent positions in state government, graduated from Cornell in 1965 and was a member of Alpha Delta Phi. In a telephone interview from his home in Millbrook, N.Y., Mr. Dyson said that he was concerned that "Greek organizations are singled out as compared to other similar organizations, like the chess club and the football team or anyone else who decides to have a party with alcohol."

And, he added, Cornell needs to show its alumni that it is not antagonistic toward the Greek system of fraternities and sororities.

"I've been hearing comments from alumni, from whom the university is trying to raise money these days, that they think that the administration is anti-Greek," Mr. Dyson said. Cornell is in the midst of a \$1.25 billion fundraising drive.

Henrik N. Dullea, vice president for university relations at Cornell, said that the administration was not hostile toward the Greek system. He said there was a set of procedures for the recognition and for the continued recognition of fraternities and sororities "in good standing."

"I'm not aware of an anti-Greek policy on the part of the administration," Mr. Dullea said.

Mr. Dyson served under Gov. Hugh L. Carey as Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and Commissioner of Commerce, and is a former chairman of the New York State Power Authority.

He said that Cornell's dean of students' office had failed to follow its own guidelines when Alpha Delta Phi was charged with violating the university's alcohol policy at a house party on Halloween. And he said Cornell should reimburse the fraternity \$750, because the dean's office improperly told a sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, that it could not rent the fraternity house in December since Alpha Delta Phi was on probation.

"My position is the university should compensate the alumni corporation for the rental fee it missed, and I will also argue that no punishment can be given when the university

doesn't follow its own rules, Mr. Dyson said, noting that the fraternity house is privately owned.

Placed on Suspension

In December, Alpha Delta Phi was placed on suspension through May 8 after the Cornell Greek Judicial Committee found it guilty of violating Cornell's alcohol policy for the second time this academic year. Originally, a student panel had recommended that the fraternity lose its university recognition for a year, but after an appeal, an official reduced the punishment to suspension.

The official, Howard C. Kramer, the interim dean of students, maintained last week that the punishment was appropriate. "My decision is made," he said.

But Mr. Dyson said he thought the punishment was inappropriate and would ask his colleagues on the board to help him persuade the university administration to revoke the suspension.

Halloween Party

The dean's supervisor, Larry I. Palmer, the vice president of the university, said he would reverse the decision if Mr. Dyson and the others on the board said he should.

The fraternity's suspension stems from accusations that it allowed under-age drinking and did not properly monitor alcohol consumption at the party. The charges were filed by Stephen Will, a senior who serves on the Social Responsibility Committee which monitors Greek social events.

Mr. Will, a communications major from Hamburg, N.Y., said he saw more than 10 people at the Halloween party drinking without markers on their hands to indicate that they were over 21.

But Mr. Dyson said that Mr. Will should have been accompanied by a graduate student and that Mr. Will's uncorroborated testimony was not sufficient to prove that the fraternity did not properly monitor alcohol consumption.

David Wiseman, Alpha Delta Phi's representative to its alumni, denied the charges against the fraternity. "I think it's tragic that the only way a fraternity can get justice is to have a trustee come in and force the university to do what it should have done in the first place," said Mr. Wiseman, a senior and a policy-analysis major from Sudbury, Mass.

Mr. Dyson was named in 1981 by Mr. Carey as one of three governor-appointed trustees to the land-grant university.