

UC Sigma Chi Charges Rights Violation

BOULDER, Colo. (CPS)—The regents of the University of Colorado have been charged with violating the U.S. Constitution by placing the Boulder chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity on probation.

The change was made in a suit filed in the U.S. District Court of Denver by a Denver attorney on behalf of the National Sigma Chi Fraternity, its Boulder chapter, and their respective corporate structures.

According to Fred Winner, the attorney who filed the suit, there is no money involved. The suit, Winner said, requests an injunction against any punitive action the regents might take against the Boulder chapter.

The suit also requests that the probation status of the chapter be ruled "to be in excess of the defendant's jurisdiction, arbitrary and capricious, unconstitutional and void, and of no force and affect."

Violations Alleged

The suit lists the following alleged violations of the Constitution:

- Denial of the right of association, freedom of choice, freedom of religion, freedom of speech as guaranteed by the First Amendment.
- Denial of freedom of contract under the Fifth Amendment.
- Denial of equal protection of the law under the 14th Amendment.
- Denial of due process of law under the 14th Amendment.
- Impairment of the obligations of contracts contrary to Section 10 of the Constitution.

Sigma Chi also claims that the probation lowered the value of

the house by \$10,000 and reduced the chapter's yearly income by another \$10,000.

Questions Authority

Aside from testing the issues involved directly in the probation case, the suit raises a question seldom litigated—the exact scope of authority of the governing body of a state-supported institution of higher learning.

Observers feel that more is at stake for the Colorado regents in this suit than mere ability to regulate fraternity membership policies. If Sigma Chi, they say, has rights to freedom of association and action which cannot be regulated by the regents, do all students have similar rights?

If a federal court finds that the regents cannot regulate Sigma Chi, it would seem logical, these same observers say, that the regents are without power to regulate any aspect of the university community except academic departments and the use of the physical plant.

Many Implications

The implications of a Sigma Chi victory might be broader still. For currently Sigma Chi, and other campus social organizations, have access to myriad facilities—intramural fields, computer time, offices and meeting rooms, the use of auditoriums — on their campuses.

Bureau Chosen For Area Study

The University Bureau of Municipal research was appointed Tuesday to formulate a long-range community development plan.

The Central Lane Planning Council chose the Bureau to study future development of cultural and recreational needs for the area, and emphasized study of the North Bank area, the site of the proposed University football stadium.

Cost for the study, an estimated \$26,500, will be divided between the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Lane County, Eugene and Springfield, and the University.

CLPC members asked to have Tony Kom, a Bureau planning consultant, head the project.

Language Classes Offered at YMCA

Registration for the Swahili and Hindi language courses will continue through this office in 318 SU.

Swahili will be taught at 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights and Hindi will be taught at 7 p.m. Thursdays. The registration fee will be \$5.

If Sigma Chi can stay in good graces with its national while having full access to Colorado facilities, the regents might as well be without precedent to impose any regulation on any group which wishes to use the university.

The Boulder chapter of Sigma Chi first came under fire from the regents last April when the board charged that the national had a rule which violated the university's non-discrimination ruling of 1956.

On May 29, the board ruled that the suspension of a particular chapter was in accordance with an unwritten tradition and practice of the national Sigma Chi office of discriminating against minority groups.

On Probation Now

By a four to two vote the regents put the Sigma Chi chapter on probation on these grounds.

At the beginning of the current semester, the chapter notified both the regents and its national headquarters that it was to be considered "autonomous" in the selection of its members.

The chapter then requested the regents to lift the probation. The regents were assured at that time that the local fraternity would not submit its choice of members to the national fraternity for approval in the future.

The regents voted again and this time the vote was three to three. University President Joseph Smiley is the only person, under Colorado law, who can break a tie vote of the regents. Since Smiley was out of town, the motion failed.

Began at Stanford

Trouble for local Sigma Chi chapters seems to stem from a Stanford University incident last

spring. The Stanford chapter pledged a Negro and was suspended from the national organization.

The national office claimed the suspension was not for taking a Negro, but for "continued disregard of, and actual opposition to, the ritual requirements of the fraternity."

The Stanford chapter had taken the same measures as the Colorado chapter when before it pledged the Negro, it announced its independence of the national office on membership matters.

The national fraternity requires that no chapter pledge or initiate any member "who for any reason is likely to be considered as personally unacceptable as a brother by any chapter or any brother anywhere."

"White Christians"

The University of Wisconsin had prodded its Sigma Chi chapter into pushing for the elimination of the "white Christians only" clause. The "acceptable to any brother anywhere" clause is the replacement.

The probation imposed by the regents was based on the assumption, the university said, that if the chapter was not in trouble with the national it was only because the national had reason to believe that the chapter would continue to abide by the "acceptable to any brother" clause.

Since the lawsuit was brought by the Boulder and national or-

ganizations together, some university officials feel that this assumption was well founded. These officials say that if the Colorado chapter's declaration of its independence in membership matters had been distressing to the national organization it would not have entered into a suit on its behalf.

Clause Exemption

As the suit was filed, the Faculty Senate Committee on Student Affairs at Colorado was studying a proposal that might go to the Dec. 16 meeting of the regents and would tighten regulations on all campus organizations.

The so-called Danielson proposal now under study says, "Beginning with the academic year 1966-67, no student organization in which there is any regulation or practice which denies participation to any student on the basis of race, color or creed will receive university recognition."

If passed as is, the statement would also require that membership selection be strictly a local matter.

A committee spokesman said a portion of the proposal which says that a religious group organized "to promote, as its primary purpose, the study of a religious faith or the promotion of ethnic or racial purity" may request an exemption from the regulations is "in debate." Committee chairman Ned Bowler predicted that the exemption clause will "undergo some revision."

Grant Finances French Institute

The University will conduct one of five overseas institutes for secondary school French teachers in France this summer under a \$151,211 National Defense Education Act grant from the U.S. Office of Education.

Eighty teachers from throughout the United States will participate in the University's nine-week Institute for Advanced Study in the Teaching of French, to be held in Tours, France.

David M. Dougherty, head of the University's modern and classical language division, will be director of the institute. The recently elected president of the American Association of Teachers of French, Dougherty has directed the institute since its founding six years ago.

Objective of the institute is to upgrade the teachers' knowledge of the language, methods, and materials for teaching. Curriculum will focus on four areas — civilization, methods, linguistics, and language drill.

Oregon French teachers have been especially encouraged to apply for the program, which awards a \$75 weekly stipend, a travel allowance, and a \$15 per week allowance for each dependent to participants.

To be eligible for admission, a teacher must have ranged in the upper third of one of the first-level institutes held in the United States during the past seven summers or have had equivalent training, and have had a minimum of two years teaching experience in French.

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Art Center Holding Class Registration

The Maude I. Kerns Art Center at 1910 Fifteenth Ave. East will be conducting registration for students both this week and next week. The term is ten weeks long with classes beginning next week. Three-hour classes are \$20.00. Memberships in the Art Center are \$5.00 and some classes require a lab fee.

The Art Center has announced that two painters of well renown have joined its faculty this term. John Haugse, from Seattle, will teach etching Wednesday night from 7 to 10, and Vernon Witham, from Eugene, will teach acrylic painting Thursday night from 7 to 10. Both men have exhibited widely on the West Coast and both have studied at the University of Oregon.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Ron Janson, Art Center director, at 345-1126.

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