

The Wesleyan Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) issues the following statement regarding the forced coeducation of the three male fraternities announced this week by the University.

With this pronouncement, the Roth administration abandons the historical incrementalist path of political correctness and takes a quantum leap toward becoming the totalitarian regime it apparently aspires to be. On its face, the new policy ought to sound an alarm for every student organization on campus, that your freedom to associate with those you care to is subject to oversight, manipulation and elimination, if your group should run afoul of the administration's view of how the so-called "Wesleyan Community" shall be constituted. Even more so, the blatant hypocrisy, manifest intellectual dishonesty and astonishing arrogance underlying the administration's action should give every person who cares about this University pause, and reason to wonder about actual motives.

By singling out the "residential fraternities" (that is, ONLY those who own their house) for a measure which they well know would require disassociation with their National organizations, the administration is making a transparent effort to weaken them to the point of instability. In order to do so, the administration disingenuously co-opted and morphed the initial concerns of alcohol and sexual abuse. Now, under the guise of "gender equality", it is not merely dictating who the members must and can associate with, but how they may use the "campus spaces", which in fact are privately owned and maintained as they have been for generations. Apparently some forms of "equity" are simply more important than others. What is clear, though, is that no campus organization which selects its members either by process or by theme—including those that are not "residential", but require program housing status to remain viable—is immune from this same invasion of its choices. Wesleyan, not they, will be choosing the members and dictating the selection of leaders. Of course, the male fraternities at this point are convenient targets of opportunity, while exemption of the various other "exclusionary" organizations dampens the political uproar.

Notably, the announcement mentions not a word about alcohol abuse or sexual assault prevention, two of the central issues confronting Wesleyan and so many other institutions of higher learning. Probably that is because, if it were being honest, the administration would be forced to acknowledge that its own statistics, reported as required by Federal law, conclusively demonstrate the absence of any correlation between Wesleyan's male fraternities and disproportionate occurrences of either scourge. But of course, as one administration minion admitted last spring, they don't care about inconvenient quantitative, statistical data; it's the anecdotal, "qualitative data" that support their agenda they prefer to focus on.

While the pretense is that the Board of Trustees is whole-heartedly in support of this agenda, the fact is that at its recent retreat, preceding the announcement of the new policy, *no vote was taken by the Trustees*. No vote was taken because such a vote would have revealed a sharp division among the Trustees on forced coeducation, including many who urged that the issue should at least receive greater scrutiny and have more of a nexus with reason, logic and actual justification, before overturning 150

years of contribution, service and dedication to Wesleyan as well as to DKE and the other fraternities. This abdication of governance thus permitted President Roth to impose the Alpha Delta Pi model he so personally favors, on both those who have elected to adopt it already and those who have not; because, no doubt, your President knows what is best for you.

Even as the administration trumpets that it is “supporting” the continued existence of Greek organizations on campus, it is imposing onerous limitations and restrictions seemingly designed most specifically to cripple the ability of the organizations with private houses to support, like DKE, to maintain their membership rosters. Witness the additional new prohibition on recruiting and pledging freshmen students—of whatever gender. With remarkable aplomb, they say on the one hand you have three years to fully coeducate (nothing arbitrary there, right), but on the other, we are eliminating the first year of the “intake cycle”. This too, under the guise of enhancing “campus safety.”

Given the demonstrable lack of connection between this policy and the eradication of sexual misconduct and alcohol abuse, it can fairly be asked whether this administration isn’t merely attempting by this initiative to divert attention from other, more intractable problems confronting it: say, plunging application numbers, sinking national rankings among comparable schools, or maybe an endowment that has sagged embarrassingly far behind the recovery experienced by other institutions. As one commentator has suggested, as the defining pinnacle of President Roth’s legacy, this may well be the ObamaCare equivalent: the one “accomplishment” he can point to. Sadly, the costs and detriments to the University, its traditions and its future, will be the real legacy.