STATEMENT ON “SPE” FRATERNITY
January 20, 2011

The Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life aims to educate and support our students in Inter-Fraternity Council affiliated chapters as they shape organizations promoting principles of scholarship, leadership, service, diversity, and honor.

We understand that there may exist an assembled group that claims to represent an “independent fraternity” at the University. This group, labeled “SPE,” is not a member of the Inter-Fraternity Council nor does it operate within the structure established through a Fraternal Organization Agreement with the University.

SPE is not a participant in the current round of IFC recruitment activities (rush) and, as such, is not considered to be a member of the fraternity/sorority community at UVA. Further, if a man were to “join” SPE, he would not be offered the rights, privileges, and benefits that come with membership in a fraternity that is recognized by the IFC or an inter/national fraternal organization.

In September 2009, the University of Virginia terminated the Fraternal Organization Agreement with the then-existing Virginia Eta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon (sometimes referred to as “SPE”) as a result of what the University believed in good faith to be numerous risk management violations that placed the health, well-being, and safety of University students in jeopardy. Sigma Phi Epsilon has been advised by the IFC that they may petition to return to the University community no earlier than fall 2012.

The Office of the Dean of Students/Fraternity & Sorority Life seeks to partner with inter/national organizations that will offer undergraduate students a values-based fraternal experience. These partnerships allow for a successful fraternal experience and are complemented by periodic headquarters staff visits and guidance, adequate insurance coverage, and superior risk management.

We encourage any individual(s) considering membership in SPE to carefully consider this information when making a decision about joining a fraternity.