



**February 8, 2019**

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**Statement from Millsaps College:**

Recent media reports have raised questions regarding Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves and his membership in Kappa Alpha fraternity at Millsaps College from 1993-1997, particularly related to fraternity activities that included displays of Confederate memorabilia and confrontations with students of color. Millsaps College engaged with these issues at the time by facilitating conversations between the Black Student Association, the administration, and the fraternity, and today we continue to confront the difficult and important issues of truth, racial healing and reconciliation.

Additionally, the national Executive Council of Kappa Alpha Order adopted new regulations in 2015 that forbid any function “with the name Old South or functions with any similar name.” That directive has been implemented and supported at Millsaps. Within the last three years, several African-American men have been invited into and accepted membership in Millsaps’ chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order.

Relative to the images of members of the fraternity shown in blackface, the decision to publish those and any other similar photographs was a mistake. Those actions and images were offensive to African-American students, and not in line with our values at Millsaps College.

Millsaps is a leader on issues of civil and human rights and was the first college or university in Mississippi to voluntarily integrate. Within the past 30 years, African-American men have been invited into and accepted membership with all fraternities on campus, including Pi Kappa Alpha, Lambda Chi Alpha, Kappa Sigma, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The College also hosts a chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Millsaps College recognizes the role that fraternities and sororities can play in an active student community in terms of leadership, philanthropy, and academics. The College continues to support an inclusive campus atmosphere that recognizes the value of every student.