

March 16, 2004

Mr. John Marshall, Assistant Vice President Legal Affairs
Office of Legal Affairs
Georgia State University
MSC: 5B0561
33 Gilmer Street, S.E. Unit 5
Atlanta, GA 30303-3083
VIA FACSIMILE (404) 651-2846

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am writing on behalf of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. We are an organization that seeks to advance the cause of open government and monitors freedom of information issues throughout this state.

We have learned that the Faculty Committee on Student Discipline will close its meeting of March 17, 2004 at 9:00 A.M., where it plans to discuss a formal complaint filed against a fraternity. As you know, disciplinary hearings pertaining to organizations should be open to the public. *See Red and Black Publishing Co. v. Board of Regents*, 262 Ga. 848, 427 S.E.2d 257 (1993) (tribunal's "very function is to determine whether a social fraternity or sorority is guilty of violating University rules and regulations").

Additionally, we are concerned that these activities are contrary to public policy and urge you to review O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 *et seq.* which sets forth the requirements for properly held public meetings. To that end, I have enclosed a copy of our recent publication, *Georgia's Sunshine Laws: A Citizen's Guide to Open Government*.

We would appreciate an explanation of what will be done to remedy these violations that go against the interests of the public. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hollie Manheimer
Executive Director

Enclosure

Cc: Jeannie Barrett
GFAF Board