

Chapter Presidents—

The Council Presidents — [REDACTED] (MGC), [REDACTED] (Panhel), [REDACTED] (IFC), and [REDACTED] (IGC)— have discussed how we, as a Greek community, can take a united stance against offensive Halloween costumes, and ultimately, make this weekend both fun and safe for everyone.

What sets Halloween apart from other weekends on this campus is the fact that there are multiple costume parties being held. The costumes that people choose to wear have an effect on everyone around them whether they realize it or not. This year we want the Greek Community to help prevent inappropriate, offensive and appropriative costumes. This comes down to both how we publicize and market our social events for Halloween weekend, as well as *proactively preventing* the alcohol transports and sexual assaults, which are more common during this time. We can accomplish this by being intentional when choosing party themes and party costumes, being a role model for responsible drinking, and asking people for consent if you want to engage in any sexual activity. In that same vein, we can advocate for our friends and our community by being aware of our surroundings and being active bystanders. Greek Brothers and Sisters have worn costumes that appropriate cultures and reproduce stereotypes on race, gender, sexuality, immigrant or socioeconomic status. Outfits relating to tragedy, controversy, or acts of violence are also inappropriate. We need to set a precedent that people's customs cannot and will not be our costumes. As you will agree, the values illustrated by such costumes do not align with the values of the Greek Community at Tufts. It is our mission to promote spaces that allow members of the Tufts community to have fun without feeling as though any part of their identity is being misrepresented or targeted.

In order to accomplish this, we ask that you relay this message to your chapters. Please read this email to your chapter during your weekly meetings. When choosing a costume, be aware of the impact your costume might have on others, and be cognizant of any statements—including, but not limited to, cultural or violent messages—your outfit may make, intentional or not.

There are consequences for wearing an offensive costume. Mary Pat McMahon, the Dean of Student Affairs, described the consequences as follows:
“The range of response for students whose actions make others in our community feel threatened or unsafe, or who direct conduct towards others that is offensive or discriminatory, **includes OEO and/or TUPD investigation and then disciplinary sanctions from our office that could run a wide gamut depending on what is brought to our attention and the impact of these actions on others.** Any complaints will result in full investigation by University officials and could result in serious disciplinary sanctions through Judicial Affairs.” We encourage all students that feel like they have encountered someone who is wearing an inappropriate and offensive costume to please file a report by filling out the following link:
https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TuftsUniv&layout_id=2

Furthermore, an increase of sexual assaults has occurred during this weekend in past years. *This year, we want to break that trend.* Consent is necessary for any and all sexual activity. Communicate with your chapters about ways to actively reduce risk for partygoers. This is an important issue to the Tufts community, and one that our councils take very seriously. Please try and have RMAAT present at your parties because they are here as a valuable resource.

Lastly, a higher rate of binge drinking and alcohol transports has also been a part of Halloween. We are asking that you be aware of your members and your guests, and to promote moderation for partygoers of age when consuming alcohol.

In order to comply with the values that the council Presidents outlined above, we ask that IFC party host organizations convey the following message in the description section of your Facebook event:

The Inter Greek Council, Multicultural Greek Council, Inter Fraternity Council, and Panhellenic Council would like to remind you:

In a collective effort to provide an environment for everyone to enjoy themselves, consider the implications of your costume choices that might appropriate stereotypes or target aspects of identity. In addition, your consent and others' consent is an absolute necessity for all sexual activity.

Have a fun and safe Halloween!

Best Regards,

██████████ (IFC ██████████)

██████████ (MGC ██████████)

██████████ (IGC ██████████)

██████████ (Panhel ██████████)