

June 22, 2026

President Joan Ferrini-Mundy
University of Maine
168 College Avenue
Orono, ME 04469

Dear President Ferrini-Mundy:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me yesterday. It was great to catch up on all things UMaine, and I appreciated the opportunity to reconnect and discuss the exciting plans for the future of the Beta Theta Pi chapter at the University of Maine.

Five months ago, our alumni leadership team launched a campaign to raise \$1.5 million to complete critical improvements to the Beta Theta Pi house. The project is intended to preserve an important part of the University's student housing and fraternity infrastructure while providing a safe and attractive living and learning environment for future generations of students.

As you know, Beta Theta Pi is the oldest fraternity at the University of Maine. In October 2029, the chapter will celebrate its 150th anniversary, a remarkable milestone that reflects a century and a half of leadership, scholarship, service, and lifelong friendship. This anniversary serves as an important focal point for our efforts. Our fundraising campaign, planned capital improvements, and long-term vision for the property are all being organized with the goal of positioning the chapter and its facilities to celebrate this historic occasion with pride and to enter its next 150 years on a strong foundation.

Current Chapter Strength

Beta Theta Pi continues to maintain an active and engaged undergraduate membership. We ended this semester with 39 members, with 23 brothers living in the house. This fall we expect 28 brothers living in the house. Our active brothers are committed to academic achievement, leadership development, community service, and meaningful participation in campus life. The chapter remains focused on developing young men who will contribute positively to the University of Maine and their communities.

Alumni Engagement and Transparency

One of the greatest strengths of Beta Theta Pi is its extensive and loyal alumni network. Brothers from multiple generations remain actively involved through mentoring, fundraising, governance, career networking and volunteer support. The campaign has already generated significant enthusiasm among alumni who recognize the importance of preserving the chapter house and strengthening the fraternity's long-term presence at the University.

To ensure transparency and broad engagement throughout this process, we have established www.mainebeta.org as our primary communications platform. The website provides campaign updates, project information, chapter news, historical content, and opportunities for

alumni participation. We are committed to keeping our brothers fully informed as plans develop and fundraising progresses. In that same spirit of openness, I invite you and members of your administration to review the site at your convenience. It provides a helpful overview of our objectives, our planning efforts, and the strong support being demonstrated by our alumni community.

Campaign Purpose

The proposed improvements will address both immediate facility needs and long-term capital requirements. The investment will enhance safety, functionality, accessibility, energy efficiency, and the overall student experience. Our goal is to ensure that the house remains a source of pride for the University, the fraternity, and the thousands of alumni who have called it home.

Land Lease Considerations

As we discussed, the success of a major capital campaign is closely tied to the long-term security of the underlying land lease. While the current lease has approximately 28 years remaining, donors and prospective contributors naturally look for assurance that significant investments in the property will provide benefits for many decades to come. For that reason, we met with Lauri Sidelko to explore extending the lease term to provide a total of 50 years from today. We believe such an extension would strengthen donor confidence, support fundraising efforts, and better align the useful life of the planned improvements with the term of the University's agreement with Beta Theta Pi. I appreciated hearing your willingness to support that effort.

Looking Forward

We view this effort as more than a building project. It is an investment in student leadership, community, and the enduring partnership between Beta Theta Pi and the University of Maine. By preserving and improving the home of the University's oldest fraternity as it approaches its 150th anniversary, we hope to honor the generations of students who came before us while creating new opportunities for those who will follow.

As we discussed, I also believe there is an opportunity to strengthen the connection between this campaign and the broader philanthropic goals of the University. Many Beta alumni maintain a deep affection not only for the fraternity, but also for the University itself. As our campaign moves forward, I expect there will be opportunities to encourage and expand support for the University of Maine Foundation as well.

I have been discussing these possibilities with Jeff Mills and look forward to continuing those conversations with him and, in time, with his successor. The support and engagement of your administration go a long way toward building confidence among our alumni and encouraging their continued investment in both Beta Theta Pi and the University of Maine.

Peter Madigan '81 and I look forward to supporting those efforts in the years ahead and helping advance the Foundation's goals, in addition to our own personal commitments to the University.

Thank you again for your time and thoughtful engagement about this important initiative. We look forward to continuing the conversation and working collaboratively to ensure the long-term success of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Tim O'Neil

Alumni Member, Beta Theta Pi
University of Maine, Class of 1979