Alumni Inter-Greek Council – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Spring Meeting: April 14, 2007
Heffner Alumni House, Conference Center

AIGC President Mark Andersen called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. 20 out of 38 voting organizations were in attendance.

Attending organizations: Acacia, Alpha Chi Rho, Alpha Phi, Alpha Sigma Phi, Delta Phi, Delta Tau Delta, Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI), Phi Kappa Theta, Phi Mu Delta, Lambda Chi Alpha, Pi Beta Phi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Lambda Phi, Rensselaer Society of Engineers, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Tau Epsilon Phi, Theta Chi, Theta Xi, Zeta Psi.

- Meeting agenda was reviewed.

Reports:
- AIGC: Primary focus is on the relationship statement and initiatives.
- IFC: Greek Weekend currently happening (this weekend), Olympics and Troy clean-up in the works. Updating the IFC web site to include philanthropy reporting, and are looking for more involvement from chapter officers in IFC business. They are also hoping to have more IFC-focused recruitment events.
- Panhellenic: Reported recruitment totals, working on initiatives with AIGC, all sororities made it over the 4-star rating in the new 5-star system. They want to design a t-shirt for the entire Greek community. Their recruitment for the fall is set.
- Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs: Grade summaries were released. 5-star rankings were also released and discussed. A draft of the StudentOrientation fraternity/sorority presentation was also released for discussion. A draft of the SO brochure was also released for discussion. They are hoping to release their new web site on July 1, 2007.
  - Suspensions: Rensselaer Society of Engineers (working positively), Pi Kappa Phi (working positively), Phi Kappa Tau (not working positively), Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Sigma Kappa, and Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI).
  - Judicial Inquiries: Pi Lambda Phi and Zeta Psi
- Joe Templin (Pi Kappa Phi) is going to offer a financial management seminar for fraternity/sorority members the last week of classes.
- Mark Anderson (Rensselaer Society of Engineers) recognized and thanked Assistant Dean of Students Jessica Wickiewicz for her service and support of the fraternity/sorority community.

Constitutional revisions:
- Jerry Witter, Ph.D. (Sigma Alpha Epsilon) reviewed the statements in the new draft, including the voting eligibility piece and re-defined activities.
• **Amendment:** Revert “Membership” section back to the original document to allow suspended chapters’ alumni the ability to vote. Motion to accept passed.

• Motion to adopt by Ray Lutzky (Lambda Chi Alpha) was seconded. Motion to accept passed.

Elections:

• Nominated slate: Roger Grice, Ph.D. (president, Lambda Chi Alpha), Roger Mike (vice-president, Delta Phi), Ray Lutzky (director, Lambda Chi Alpha), Ann Dodson (director, Pi Beta Phi), Shannon Kelly (director, Pi Beta Phi), Jerry Witter, Ph.D. (director, Sigma Alpha Epsilon), and Neil Eklund, Ph.D. (director, Phi Gamma Delta).

• Motion to accept was seconded and passed, pending Neil Eklund’s (Phi Gamma Delta) acceptance of his nomination.

• In the event Neil declines his nomination, John Thomas (Sigma Alpha Epsilon) requests to fill the remaining director position.

Relationship Statement Review:

• **Jerry Witter (Sigma Alpha Epsilon)** provided highlights of the review process and the purpose of the process.

• Requested that alumni provide coordinated support and review on updates.

• January 2008 is the target date for implementation of the new document, finalized revisions expected in Fall 2007.

• Want to review how we are doing w/expectations in the statement, how the Institute is doing w/expectations.

• Mentioned that Geoff Seber, Associate Advancement Officer in the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, is the point-person for alumni Greek activities and is offering his assistance to all chapters. He can be reached at seberg@rpi.edu or 518-276-2324.

Alcohol Initiative:

• Dean of Students Mark Smith discussed the process and progress with the alcohol initiative.

• Discussed some chapters have high academic probation numbers among freshmen, and how changes in the Institute student handbook will address fraternity/sorority members particularly.

• Discussed new “Good Samaritan” policy offering amnesty/responsibility to members involved to involve first responders in the event of an emergency.

• Roger Mike (Delta Phi) endorsed the work of the alcohol initiative committee.

• Reviewed draft social event manual, discussed. Also reviewed draft process for reinstatement, and discussed.

• Mark Smith asked for feedback on all documents, and is available at smithm@rpi.edu or 518 276 6266.

• Rensselaer Alumni Association President Bob Forman (Delta Phi) endorsed the work of the alcohol initiative committee and the new policies/documents.
• It was suggested that a list of approved third-party vendors be provided via the web site, and that the BYO section of the event guide be made more prominent.
• The role of alumni advisors in helping alumni understand the importance of these initiatives was also discussed.
• Former AIGC President Jim Ljunglin (Zeta Psi) suggested a resolution from the AIGC, asking chapter alumni and advisors to reign in alumni on alcohol issues.
• Discussion regarding how to demonstrate to the alumni community that due process has been followed in this review and that we are now moving in a positive direction with the initiatives.
• Bob Forman (Delta Phi) suggested an article in Rensselaer Magazine highlighting the changes taking place, Ray Lutzky (Lambda Chi Alpha) added that a press release might be a good option as well.

Recruitment Initiative
• Shannon Kelly (Pi Beta Phi) reviewed the work of the committee to-date, including working w/councils on recruitment management, and fostering alumni participation in recruitment.
• Focus on giving students a better way to acclimate and removing pressure to join early, potentially re-working how bid dinners are conducted.
• Creating an “alert” system for chapters to know if new members (freshmen) are doing poorly in grade.
• Also solicited volunteers to help out with the next iteration of the fraternity/sorority survey on campus.
• Will also address the topic of deferred recruitment in upcoming meetings; Greg Willmott (Theta Chi) offered that his organization has put together a position paper on deferred recruitment and can make it available. He can be contacted at gwillmott@nycaprr.com.

Next meeting: Late August or Early September.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.