RPI Greek Chapter Advisor’s Meeting

January 18, 2003
Heffner Alumni House
Schedule

• 9:30    Coffee and Donuts
• 10:00   Introductions and Goals
• 10:30   Dean of Students, Mark Smith
• 11:00   Presentations & Discussions
• 11:45   Break if need
• 13:00   Lunch
• 13:45   Meeting with Undergrad Leaders
• 15:00   Wrap-up if needed
Are the lines parallel or do they slope?
Count the Black Dots
Focus on the dot and move head forward and back
Agenda

• Ice Breaker - Introduce each other
  – What’s the most interesting/challenging thing you’ve had to handle with your Chapter?
• Brainstorm on discussion topics for later in the day
• Going over IFC policies for Parties and Rush
• Going over RPI Policies and Troy Ordinances
• Status of the Relationship Statement and discussion of what it means
• Crisis management plans/protocols
• Risk Management
• Fire Safety
• Effective advising
Potential Topics

- IFC and RPI and NIC policies
- fire safety
- alcohol use/abuse
- rush/recruitment
- pledge (new member) education and hazing
- RPI & neighbor relations (Troy ordinances)
- handling situations
- best practices
- roles for advisors
- facts and urban legends about Greek Life at RPI
IFC Party Policies

• **House Event:**
  – A house event is one in which a house has an alcohol related event at which no more than twice the number of brothers and associate members attend. *For example, if you have 50 brothers and 25 associate members, you may have 150 people at your house and you are not required to register this as a party with the IFC Alcohol Review Committee. The number of brothers and associates are included in that count of 150.*

• **Mixer:**
  – A mixer is an event which features the host house and one or two additional Greek Organizations. If fraternity ABC invites sororities DEF and GHI they need not register this event, but no persons outside of those organizations may attend.

• **Party:**
  – Any event not classified as a House Event or a Mixer is considered a party and must be registered with the IFC Alcohol Review Committee. *These are BYOB, Catered, and Closed with special rules for each type.*

• *For any event the Maximum servings allowed is 6 per legal guest*
IFC Rush Policies

Dry Rush

1. All Rush is considered to be DRY RUSH. This includes all formal and non-formal rush activities associated with the Interfraternity Council and that of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, regardless of event location.

2. At no time during dry rush may a fraternity, a member, or and other person on the fraternity premises make alcohol available to a rushee. Nor shall alcohol be in view on the fraternity premises while a rushee is present.

3. If any chapter is caught serving, consuming, or purchasing alcohol while a rushee is present during Rush, that chapter will be subject to one or more of the following penalties:
   a) a. Fined $200.00, plus $5.00 for each member of the chapter as registered with DOSO, payable to IFC.
   b) b. Placed on four (4) weeks social probation, as defined by the IFC by-laws.
   c) c. Loss of rush privileges for up to one (1) full year.
   d) d. Minimum of one semester suspension if found to be providing alcohol to individuals under 21 years of age. (to be enforced by DOSO)

RPI Policies

• Student Handbook Specifies:
  – Grounds for Disciplinary Action
  – Alcohol and Other Drugs
  – Hazing
  – Sign Policy
  – Judicial Proceedings

• Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy
DOSO Notification Protocol

Effective immediately, I am issuing the this directive to be followed by all fraternity and sorority chapters, chapter advisors, and House Corporation Officers:

– Any incident or situation that does or potentially can compromise chapter and member safety, health, and/or welfare, is to be reported to an appropriate Troy emergency services agency (Phone - 911), Rensselaer’s Department of Public Safety (Phone: 276-6611 EMERGENCY), and the President or designee of the House Corporation.

The Department of Public Safety will notify the Duty Dean and Dean of Students about the incident and status. At any time should a chapter need the Dean’s assistance, contact the Department of Public Safety (276-6656) who will notify the Duty Dean and Dean of Students.
Troy Ordinances

• Since 1999 have had noise ordinances
  – troycitycodew.doc

• Summer 2002 passed new nuisance ordinance
  – Oridinance to Abate Public Nuisances

• They do have a services brochure:
  – TroySvcBroch02.pdf
RPI Alcohol Policies

The Zero Tolerance Policy

INSTITUTE-RECOGNIZED STUDENT GROUPS AND ALCOHOL

As stated in the Institute Regulations on Alcohol section in this handbook, any Rensselaer recognized student organization found to have served alcohol to an underage individual at any university sanctioned or sponsored activity (on or off campus) will, at minimum, be subject to a mandatory one-semester suspension. In addition, all organization alcohol privileges are subject to revocation while a group is under investigation and for the duration of the disciplinary process. At the end of the designated suspension period, an organization can be reinstated if all conditions have been met. Conditions for reinstatement include a probationary period for a minimum of one semester following a suspension, and may also include, but are not limited to, such stipulations as educational programming/training, restrictions on alcohol at events, and having an advisor present at all events or living in residence if applicable.
Relationship Statement Update

• Last year made great progress in updating and cleaning it up, but slow movement last fall
• Mark Anderson (RSE) coordinating the completion with Travis Apgar
• Comments are back from Eddie Knowles and Chuck Carletta
• Final Revision will be out soon for adoption- may have a meeting or traveling presentation to

• 2/3 to adopt and if passes all partners must adhere to it (RPI, Undergraduates, & Alumni)
• Current Relationship Statement is still working
Crisis Management Planning

• Response to Minor/Major incidents needed
  – Minor
  – Major
• Who to call, when to call
• Who to talk, when to talk

This area needs work and the IFC said they would be tackling this. We should share our national protocols and get the best features of each that will work for RPI

Crisis_Management_Protocol.doc  Quick_Reference_Crisis_Management_Protocol.doc
Risk Management

• NIC and National Organization Policies

• Common Liability Insurance Exemptions
  – Purchase of Alcohol with Chapter Funds
  – Kegs – Common Containers
  – Open Parties
  – Sale of Alcohol
  – Possession of Illegal Drugs or Controlled Substances
  – Hazing
  – Sexual Abuse
  – Assault and Battery
PRACTICING FIRE SAFETY
Fire Safety

• Video of dorm fire and Slides of common causes
• Recent Known Close Calls on Campus
  – Zeta Psi Boiler Overheated due to faulty water supply – heat alarm called out fire dept
  – Phi Sigma Kappa – Overloaded power strip
  – Pi Beta Phi – gas valve to stove burner failed, suppression system actuated by sister
  – Pi Kappa Alpha – mattress fire; had to toss it out the window
  – Sigma Phi Epsilon – stove fire, supression system actuated
• Historical – Alpha Chi Rho major damage in 1980’s

firesafetyshort.ppt   burn1.real.cable.rm
Top Eleven Fire Safety Tips

1. Install smoke detectors!

2. Plan to escape a chapter house fire before it occurs.

3. Designate areas outside the chapter house for cigarette smokers.

4. Prohibit unauthorized/untrained individuals from using the kitchen.

5. Eliminate (or restrict) space heaters in the chapter house.
Top Eleven Fire Safety Tips

6. Control and monitor the electrical load. Many chapter houses are older and cannot handle all the Brothers’ CD players, TVs, VCRs, computers, printers, telephones, etc.

7. Post emergency numbers next to all phones.

8. If you are caught in a fire, STAY LOW! Smoke and poisonous gases rise with heat.
Top Eleven Fire Safety Tips

9. If you catch on fire, **STOP, DROP, and ROLL**. Remain calm, drop to the ground, cover your eyes, and roll on the ground to smother the flames.

10. Keep all fire doors in the chapter house shut. They are useless as a fire barrier if left open.

11. **Keep the chapter house clean!** Excess rubbish only increases the combustible material within the chapter house.
Change of Gears

• Effective Advising
• Qualities of an Advisor

• Discussion Time, Less Facts
What/Who is an Advisor?

*Chapters are different.*

Chapters are different not only in their statistical and physical attributes, but above all in the quality of their organization, in their size, and in their esprit. Therefore, an advisor must take the information shared today and modify it to fit his particular chapter.

*Advisors are different.*

By accepting this position an advisor agrees to assist the undergraduate chapter in conducting its operations and in realizing its ideals and aspirations. However, each advisor will also have his own philosophy and unique approach to advising and should take those into account.

*Advisors are volunteers.*

The advisor is a volunteer and has other, more important demands on his time. The chapter must, therefore, avoid setting up unrealistic expectations of him.

*Advisors are advisors, not dictators.*

If push comes to shove, an advisor cannot force a chapter to do anything. His respect and authority are based upon the quality of his relationship with the brothers.

*There is often no right answer* (and even when there is, we may not have it!)

*Common sense is supreme.*

In the end, the effectiveness of an advisor is likely to be determined by the efficacy with which he applied this famous trait to his advising.
Basic Premises for Advisors

Chapters are different.
Advisors are different.
Advisors are volunteers.
Advisors are advisors, not dictators.
There is often no right answer
Common sense is supreme.
"How to Survive and be Happy though Surrounded by College Students"

1. **LISTEN.** You won't learn much from young people if you do all the talking. You'll be surprised at how much sense they talk, however senseless they may look.

2. **KEEP SMILING.** A large percentage of us of the older generation unconsciously or deliberately glare, sneer, frown when we look at college students. Most of them are remarkably perceptive; they know when we're hostile. It is difficult for most people, young or old, to communicate with others who are clearly antagonistic.

3. **DON'T ASK THEM WHY THEY LOOK THE WAY THEY DO.** If they can't explain it to their parents, they can't explain it to you. Anyway, they don't really know.

4. **DON'T TELL THEM HOW HARD AND HOW JOYFULLY YOU WORKED IN YOUR YOUTH.** Theirs is a different world; they have no conception of the world through which we lived in the Depression and in World War II and little curiosity to learn about it. Sad or wrong, but it's true.

5. **LEVEL WITH THEM.** They are amazingly open and honest, if you approach them in a spirit of openness and honesty. And there's little or nothing you can't talk about.

6. **DON'T TRY TO BE ONE OF THEM.** Among the most pathetic creatures over 30 are those synthetic adolescents who try to dress, talk, act, and look like college students. Oh, there's an occasional middle-aged folk singer who can get away with it. Most of the rest of us, on or off the campus, can't.

7. **SHARE WITH THEM YOUR OWN HIGHEST HOPES AND FINEST PURPOSES.** It will surprise and delight them to discover that plenty of old people are idealists too. They have been fed too much nonsense about the lack of social purpose among their elders.

8. **BELIEVE IN THEM.** They'll sense it when you do. And, as in all generations, they will respond, eventually, to that belief.

Landrum R. Bolling, president of Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana
"How to Survive and be Happy though Surrounded by College Students" *

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2. KEEP SMILING. DON'T ASK THEM WHY THEY LOOK THE WAY THEY DO.
3. DON'T TELL THEM HOW HARD AND HOW JOYFULLY YOU WORKED IN YOUR YOUTH.
4. LEVEL WITH THEM.
5. DON'T TRY TO BE ONE OF THEM.
6. SHARE WITH THEM YOUR OWN HIGHEST HOPES AND FINEST PURPOSES.
7. BELIEVE IN THEM.

* Landrum R. Bolling, president of Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana
What/Who is an Advisor?

**Friend:** Certainly

**Father-figure:** Sure

**Leader:** Rarely

**Buddy:** In some cases

**Authoritarian:** No

**Mediator:** Frequently

**Brother:** Not Necessary

**Director:** Careful

**Confidant:** Of course

**Aloof:** Sometimes

**Authoritative:** Yes

**Counselor:** Yes
Areas of Concern for an Advisor

Internal to the Chapter
House Corporation
Chapter Management
Rush
Relationships within the Chapter
Abuses
Brothers Personal Problems
Social
Scholarship
Counseling for Career, Vocation, Education

The House or Lodge
Finances and Budget
Pledge Education
Ritual
Discipline
Athletics
Alumni Affairs
Liason with the University

External to the Chapter
Liason Regional and National Organizations
Open Discussion for RPI Issues

• Capacity of DOSO Greek Affairs ($8k for programming, FYE = $??)
• Communications from DOSO
• IFC/Panhel Effectiveness
• Roles for Advisors vs. AIGC
• ?????
Potential Topics

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