The Greek Life Commons: Opportunity Proposition

Greek Life
House Corporation Leaders
and
Chapter Advisors
December 2009

CLASS: Transformation in the Making

- Overview:
  - CLASS: Residential College model
  - CLASS: Clustered Learning, Advocacy and Support for Students
  - CLASS: Builds on the success of the First-Year Experience
  - CLASS: Elevates the quality of the student experience
  - CLASS: Draws together faculty, student life professionals, upper-class & graduate students as support team
  - CLASS: Redefines & expands living & learning communities
  - CLASS: Integrates Greek Life & Off-Campus students
  - CLASS: Adapts facilities to new model as clusters

December 2009
CLASS: Transformation in the Making

- Expectations and Next Steps: Fall, 2009
  - Launch: Class of 2013
  - Class Deans: Student Life Professionals (4)
    - Oversee class specific programs and affinity group development
  - Faculty Deans of the Residential Commons: Tenured Faculty (2)
    - Provide leadership in stimulating the intellectual, cultural, and social life in the residential commons
  - Assistant Deans of the Residential Commons: Student Life Professionals (6)
    - Oversee residence hall activities
  - Faculty Fellows: Provide high quality out of classroom interaction

December 2009
CLASS Implementation FY10

Expectation and Next Steps: Fall, 2009 (cont’d)

- Platforms
  - First-Year halls organized into clusters
  - Crockett and Hall enlarged to accommodate live in Assistant Deans
  - Blitman Residence Commons housing upper-class students
  - Assistant Dean living in Blitman Commons
  - Polytechnic Commons housing upper-class students
  - Assistant Dean living in Polytech Apartments
  - Deans of the Residential Commons living in university owned houses near commons clusters

December 4, 2009

CLASS Implementation FY11

Expectations and Next Steps: Fall, 2010

- Launch Sophomore Year Experience
- Launch Greek Life Commons based on “Commons Agreement”

- People
  - Associate Dean, Greek Life Commons: Student Life professional (1)
  - Associate Dean, Off-Campus Commons: Student Life professional (1)
  - Dean of Residence Life: Student Life professional (1)
  - Assistant Vice President for Student Life

December 4, 2009
CLASS Implementation: FY11

Expectations and Next Steps: Fall, 2010 (cont'd)

- Programs
  - Sophomore year initiatives
  - Greek Life Commons initiatives
  - Blitman Commons becomes a "special commons" for Junior and Seniors
  - Polytechnic Commons becomes a "special commons" for Juniors and Seniors
  - Off-campus student programs and services

- Platforms
  - Identify university owned house and create a Center for Off-Campus Student Services

December 4, 2009

CLASS Implementation: FY12

Strengthen:
  Graduate Student Experience
  Internationalizing the Student Experience

- People
  - Dean for the Graduate Student Experience: Student Life professional (1)
  - Assistant Dean, Internationalizing the Student Experience: Student Life professional (1)
  - Class Dean: Student Life Professional (2)
  - Assistant Dean of the Residential Commons: Student Life professional (2)
CLASS Implementation: FY12

Strengthen: Graduate Student Experience
Internationalizing the Student Experience (cont'd)

- Programs
  - Collaborative initiatives focused on first-year and beyond
  - Enhancement of Internationalizing the Student Experience
  - Expansion of Class Dean initiatives for all classes
  - Expansion of residential commons activities & support for students

- Platforms
  - Strategic location of offices in Academy Hall and within the residential commons

Transformation Realized

Expectations: Return on Investment

- Anticipated Outcomes:
  - Increase in student retention and graduation rates
  - Increase in student affinity and life-long connection to Rensselaer
  - Overall increase in student satisfaction with the quality of the Rensselaer experience
  - Growth in intellectual, cultural, and social awareness
  - Increase in the quality of academic advising and student success
  - Increased and sustained involvement in leadership initiatives and activities for social change
The Greek Life Commons: Opportunity Proposition

- Greek Life Today:
  Campus Demographics
  - 5 sororities
  - 29 fraternities
  - 22 own their houses
  - 4 reside in university residence halls
  - 52% of Greeks live in affiliated houses
  - 66% of houses are at capacity
  - 25% of student body: members of a fraternity or sorority

December 2009

The Greek Life Commons: Opportunity Proposition

- Greek Life Commons Agreement: what is it?
  - Opportunity to be part of CLASS
  - Opportunity to be part of the Sophomore Year Experience
  - Opportunity to have sophomore members reside in the house
  - Opportunity to participate in the design and development of the Greek Life Commons
  - Opportunity to receive special benefits
  - Opportunity to strengthen the Greek Life system as a living learning community

December 2009
The Greek Life Commons: Opportunity Proposition

- Greek Life Commons Agreement: what it is not?
  - Not a policy mandate
  - Not required to sign
  - Not designed to change status of recognized chapters
  - Not penalized for failure to participate

The Greek Life Commons: Opportunity Proposition

- The Greek Life Commons Agreement: Tenets
  - Active participation in CLASS specific programs
  - Active participation in Faculty Deans programs
  - Proactive response to Assistant Dean outreach
  - Active participation in Class Dean programs
  - Active participation in Greek Life Commons programs
  - Compliance with Institute Residential Commons Standards
  - Participation in an annual review of the Commons Agreement
  - Successful completion of the annual review
  - Acknowledgement of the Commons Agreement status balanced against the “Statement of Relationship”
The Greek Life Commons: Opportunity Proposition

- **Face to Face meetings with:**
  - IFC, Panhel, and AIGC: Presidents & Vice Presidents
  - IFC & Panhel Executive Boards
  - Undergraduate chapter Presidents
  - Chapter House Corporation Presidents
  - Chapter Advisors
  - AIGC members
  - RAA Executive Board
  - Targeted chapters of interest

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**Discussion**

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