The comments listed below were generated by the participants in attendance during Greek Life Commons planning event held on Saturday, November 6th, 2010.

The responses were taken directly from the participants. No responses were omitted and no editing occurred (other than a spell check). The category headings included below were created after the event and once all of the information was compiled. This was done in order to organize the comments and responses to assist the reader.

Participants at the event were responding to the following discussion question. “What are some things that you would need to have in place in order to reach the desired vision for the Greek Life Commons?”

**Financial Concerns**
- Quicker Financial Support advance payment- since undergrads handle all bills
- Union funding for IFC and PanHel- not available yet still mandatory to go through union processing
- Need to set up a fund so that they can give us money on time. If we don’t pay our dues on time. No incentive to pay RPI bill until registration and we can’t get out money on time. With people not paying we can’t get our money
- Reason they are so slow with the money is that if we don’t have money
- Buying things together as a Greek community
- Bursar billing? After housing grants, there is no benefit…
- Funding for educational programs (TIPS Training)
- Financial stability
  - Housing
- Straighten out Bursar billing system and finances
  - Also improve system to work for Greeks
  - Efficiency and punctuality
  - Better for students with special circumstances
    - Financial issues
    - Meal plans and special needs
- Financial planning workshops – we need help in this area
- Housing improvement program → help with funding, manpower to improve, direction and instruction on fixing up houses for better
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Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 2:
“What are some things that you would need to have in place in order to reach the desired vision for the Greek Life Commons?

(Financial Concerns – continued)

- Organizing Financial/ Legal Aspects like helping Non-profit houses set up tax exemption or procuring houses for organizations without houses.
- Some type of insurance?
- Better support from Bursar Billing, more reliability
- Help with negotiations with contractors so as undergraduates we are not at a loss and it is an even playing field
- System to get all organizations actual houses, and ways to facilitate the upkeep and daily operations of the houses, like setting up food delivery or databases with reviews and contact information of contractors, plumbers etc. to simplify running the house.
- Splitting Houses into districts to hold events together, designing some sort of community center for the purpose of centralizing Greek efforts. Rush budgets capped to prevent outrageous spending

Marketing/Public Relations

- Have the school send letters to parents about what Greeks are doing good better image
- When you come as a prospective student before college apps they give you pamphlet of what is Rensselaer. Add a Greek section so they know we have a Greek system and what it does.
- Need to know more about the Greek system before enter.
- Showing Greek affiliations in things such as RPI directory
- Change the idea that: from dragging people out of their rooms to join vs. people wanting to join before.
- Retentions rate for Greeks is 80-90% compared to 60% for overall the school
- Earlier exposure to freshmen and more sharing of information.
- Getting the word out to set up shops to help Greeks develop professional and social skills, then actually organize it. Have guidelines or standards for it. Design a template for the program.
- Have contact with outside press sources (Troy Record, Albany Times Union) and internal (The poly, or our own paper).
Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 2:
“What are some things that you would need to have in place in order to reach the desired vision for the Greek Life Commons?

(Marketing/Public Relations – continued)

- Develop sense of Loyalty to Greek Community
  - More interconnected events
  - Low school pride so it’s hard to have a lot of Greek life pride
- Allow Greeks to wear letters during panel discussions during SO
- Pamphlet sent out to incoming freshman with information about each house.
- Mailing brochures to prospective students – let parents be aware of Greek life and the associated positives – from RPI in official mailings/envelopes
- Greek presence at SO/NRB/Accepted students day
- Marketing Research of the campus and get their view of Greek Life [recruitment and school as a whole]
- Make sure that the employees on campus know what Greek life is and what we need so they can help us and be constructive
- More communication with SO and NRB so that we have a chance for equal representation with recruitment and those event
- Better Greek website
- Education for RAs about Greek Life
- Recognition/good image
- A central location for Greeks to be recognize and show what they are doing well
- Exposure for Greeks with freshman and interaction with Res Life
- Struggle: Earlier exposure with Greek system.
- Events at NRB so suggest that dorm storming is happening so that people don’t get annoyed.
- Show the benefits of Greek system before people enter the school
  - Alumni relations
  - Connections
  - Brotherhood
  - Community service
- Highlighted for the Good things we do
- Market Greek life
  - Publically support what we do
  - Use Dr. Jackson, be her friend, she has a lot of pull. (it’s a 2-way road)
Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 2:
“What are some things that you would need to have in place in order to reach the desired vision for the Greek Life Commons?

(Marketing/Public Relations – continued)

- Encouraging Greek life and also pride in your school.
- Greek life section in the Poly
- Facilities for Greek Dean, interns, assistants, offices
- Bringing back some of the old traditions (promoting a Positive Greek image).
  - Winter Carnival
  - Greek Week(end)
  - A column in the Poly to recognize the achievements of chapters.
- IFC rush having a more organized Greek life promotion

Alumni

- Show current Greeks how they can continue to be Greek after graduation (Greek Alumni 101)
  - Alumni coming back are Greek
- Increase Alumni Relations
- Greek donors tend to donate to both.
- Using pre-existing social networking (facebook, linkedin) to facilitate contact between alumni/alumni, actives/alumni, actives/actives.

Location/Space

- Office of Greek Life- Staff / undergraduate assistants, staff members to help with Greek Life and the rest of residence life.
- A central location for Greeks to be recognize and show what they are doing well
- Some sort of building / facility unique to Greeks.
- Housing for sororities
- Communal Greek space to hold events and mingle in between chapters (“Greek Suite”)
  - Useful for workshops, seminars, socializing, etc.
  - Need autonomy among Greeks
- Easier access to the Office of Greek Life
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Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 2:
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**Communication**

- Better communication / tools to work with RPI when dealing with grades/billing
- Communication with grades of members – weekly update status update generic “Above / On Track” versus “Below”
- Directory of information (Central resource area) for working with different departments on campus like Alumni house, Health center, etc.
- Help with interoffice communications/relations
  - Bursar, Public Safety, ResLife
- More publicity of files, five star what we need to have done to
  - Five star
  - Fire inspection
- RPI input in officer roles and transitions. What is RPI expecting of each position and each role.
  - What does RPI expect of the president of the house?
  - Risk manager etc…
  - Keep an updated list of changing things
- News letter that they sent to the houses in anything that changes i.e.: the president is now supposed to do something this news letter will show what happens.
- Periodic checking with the house to update the house as well as the school on progress toward the five star
- More feedback on programs incorporate decisions on social policy
- Clear defined communication/judicial system in place
  - Greek Commons Newsletter
- Administration/Greek meetings, similar to today, so the Greek life commons is written as a joint endeavor
- Greek Senate that meets with Greek Dean and Dean of Students weekly
  - Or, in Student Senate, a committee for Greek Life
  - Need to have more direct involvement with Admin
- Need a better understanding of what we can give to them and what they can give to us that are already in place
- Communication – Can’t be RPI telling us what to do, there should be a dialogue
- Contact lists for all chapters
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Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 2:
“What are some things that you would need to have in place in order to reach the desired vision for the Greek Life Commons?

(Communication – continued)

- Centralized list of all RPI services and training sessions about how to use all of these for Greeks
  - RPI Website Officer for Greek websites (Greek PR): Greek Commons Website (NOT A STUDENT BECAUSE STUDENTS GRADUATE)—an EMAC maybe?
  - Leadership training…more structured and more involvement that this open forum
- Recognition
  - Simplify the modes for recognition – publications, awards ceremonies, public presentations
- Clear Channels with Administration
  - IFC, PanHel
  - Emails to all Greeks
- Better communication with national organizations about the things that are happening on campus, attempting to help national organizations understand that we have lots of other stuff going on
- Present visible goals for Greeks throughout the year
  - Not a ‘scramble’ to complete five star at the end of the semester
  - Simplify the Five Star process
    - Integrate into the year rather than a ‘month’
- Help in formation of programs for freshman and student handbook
- Interface that would connect different houses e-boards together to work with one another to plan events and communicate
- Have a library of information of past stuff
- If the IFC/PanHel had a list of all the officers in each chapter so that we can get together with all the events

Documentation
- Relationship agreement, what role can it play, in this new agreement being formed.
- CLASS initiative presentation so we can align goals of CLASS with goals of GLCA
- Don’t want overly controlling document
- Freedom to self-govern
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Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 2:
“What are some things that you would need to have in place in order to reach the desired vision for the Greek Life Commons?”

(Documentation – continued)

- Needs to be the center of Athletics, Academics, Social, Leadership- large Greek events
- Retaining Independence from school, regardless of how the agreement works out
  - Not necessarily transparent, but school can’t micromanage day to day operations
- 5 year plan
  - Emphasis on Philanthropy and Leadership
  - Improve/increase recruitment
    - Support and encouragement for the recruitment system
    - From athletics
- More people with more involvement in communal things- Committees on PanHel/IFC
  [award points for positions on campus and within Greek Life on the 5 star]
- Create a more defined IFC / PanHel and increase the presence on campus
  - Model IFC / PanHel for improvement and vision statement

For RPI Administration, Faculty, & Staff

- * Respect that the Greeks do things correctly
  - Administration provides the foundation by which Greeks are able to present to each other
  - We need freedom to help each other, yet we need help in the mode to do so
- They are asking for our help, we ask for their help. Safety, security, shuttles.
  Similar to the defibrillators
- Have someone to facilitate everything – GREEK DEAN
- RPI’s Accountability
  - How can RPI be held accountable for doing their part. If they cannot be, then how can we move forward with the GLC.
  - Seems like RPI wants to take credit for all the good things we’re doing.
    - What is RPI putting into this? If we are going to be doing all these good things, what is RPI giving back to us in return?
- Transparency in decision making
- More support of events
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(For RPI Administration, Faculty, & Staff – continued)

- RPI Attendance
  - Can RPI show up at Greek events, award ceremonies when invited?
    - This would really help with building a community.
  - Better recognition for awards that we’re doing.
- Comes from the school it becomes better
- Show that all these high up people
  - Dr. Jackson
  - John Minasian
- Institute Support for Greek Life
- A Greek Dean who is fed, healthy, and happy
- Less BS from administration
- Stop fighting the fact that we are college students and micromanaging everything
- International exposure to foreign fraternities (?) support for other chapters abroad

**Programming**

- Present Programming that Greeks actually need and want *
  - Carpentry, Finances, Recruitment, Housing
- Required Greek-wide study sessions (10% of house maybe?)…during Finals week
- Of things we do individually, how can we add those together to help all Greeks?
  - Open community service for all Greeks
  - Stuff is already meant to be done by IFC and PanHel but they aren’t being done
    - But don’t want administration to take over everything because part of being Greek is STUDENT leadership
    - But we need help (from Archer Center and Dean Hunt)
    - Archer Center should advertise they can help us plan leadership events- facilitator will help run effective sessions
- “Friends of the Greek” as a union funded club to encourage events that incorporate both the student body and Greek life
- Harm Reduction Programming for chapters
  - Preventative training rather than reactionary
- However, social and professional workshops should be separate.
(Programming – continued)

- Sustainability
  - Need to improve! Help campus become green/ help Greeks go green
    - Green Greeks
- Community
  - Greek/non-Greek cooperation
  - Mixers
- Athletics
  - Intramurals, /if sports. Maybe combine them
- Academic
  - Increase GPA for men, maintain high GPA for women
- Have a big event for Greeks, like a carnival where proceeds go to charity.
- Programs developed to help the needs of the chapters
  - Alumni programs
  - Academic workshops
- Shorter recruitment, joint bid day celebration for girls/guys
- Minimum requirements for cleanliness better image for parent.
- Community service events that utilize engineering and science skills—Sigma Delta’s “Nuestra Belleza” benefits digging wells in Africa→ opportunities should be made available from the top down
  - Management students can help struggling businesses in Troy if they feel uninvolved in science and engineering project opportunities
- Sophomores
  - Development events from LA/RA…maybe planning events like that for Sophomores within Greek community with Greek-related examples/discussions
- Support System
  - Watchcare – Greeks watching out for each other
  - Conflict resolution in house/between houses
  - Five star program
  - Scholarship programs
- TIPs Training—having students become trainers to train other groups
- Management tools for transitions
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Other Items

- Summatation
- Recruit a lot of management majors