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. “In what ways could the Greek Life Commons add value to the student experience at Rensselaer?”

**Unity/Pride**

- Unify Greek life as a whole
- Increased cultural awareness, support, and unification
- The Greek life commons should work to unite our individual efforts to achieve common goals like improving relations with the external community, and improving the experience of individuals involved in Greek Life.
- Will create an environment of Greek Pride
- Unified Greek Community
- Increase unity around the dedication for service and scholarship.
- Used to inject some of the pride for the school—example of supporting football games and tailgating without as much supervision, institute some risk management but still encouraging students to come out, support events, and still have fun.
- Encouraging ‘Greek Life’ instead of recruiting for each individual chapter.
- Rallying ground for groups to come together
- Increased interest in Greek life
- Improve Greek image on and off campus
- Naturally, Greek life helps instill loyalty in individuals toward their chapters
  - Greeks most involved, strongest/most well run group
Greek Life Commons planning event – Saturday, November 6, 2010
Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 3:
“In what ways could the Greek Life Commons add value to the student experience at Rensselaer?”

**Marketing/Public Relations**

- Somewhere to show what Greeks have accomplished – GPA or Showing how many people are leaders on campus and involved in other organizations on campus.
- Highlight any and all positive aspects of Greek life, scholarship and service.
- Greeks – higher campus involvement, retention, Alumni Donations/Involvement, GPA
- Good Image good PR Good donations
  - More enjoyable, if we are viewed in a positive life more people will enjoy the RPI atmosphere
  - Helped publicity for us for better events. Looked at the good events and things not us the bad.
  - The School can see that if its sorority or fraternity is doing well they can take credit as well and would be mutually beneficial.
  - If we can feel proud of what Greeks are doing RPI can in return feel better about its self and get more money
  - RPI ranked 360ish in ranking by the students. If RPI helps Greeks then Greeks will help RPI getting a better image throughout in tern better experience here.
- Greek Gazette
- Improve Greek Life image overall, by creating a positive image to the RPI Community and incoming freshman
- Public Relations needs to be stronger…Need to show the rest of campus what we’re really about - Scholarship, service, philanthropy, other organizations.
- Communication between houses could be stronger
- Work with 3rd party vendors to promote attendance at events that all Greek life can attend
- Greek provide a positive social outlet on campus for Greeks and non Greeks on campus
- More recognition of Greeks on campus (from RPI administration)
- More membership – more recognized by campus – stigma of fraternity/sorority life is reduced
- Scholarship - Academic Prowess ;) learning & living together
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(Marketing/Public Relations – continued)

- Cause of the intramural sports, we make students more active and involved with other students, expose members to different activities for which they wouldn’t normally have the opportunity
- Educating freshmen about the positive aspects of Greek life
- Help quell stereotypes amongst freshmen and non-Greek
- Greek Life provides value through the community clubs and activities in leadership

Programming

- We are over programmed already, we don't need more programs, and we don't need more work.
- Greek sponsored school spirit and events on campus throughout the year
- Encourage combined philanthropy events with the entire Greek community or RPI community
- Maybe an outdoor bbq where professors who are Greek wear their letters and professors who support Greeks can come out.
- Provide a campus location and ceremony by which Greeks are recognized - Centralization of Greek Life pride
- GM Week – Greek Event that would encourage Greeks to vote
- Recruitment training, event planning, financial planning, risk management non-mandatory training opportunities
- Help Develop Greek Leaders - The IFC/PanHel conference is good but what about everyone else.
- Help with large scale events between chapters
- Spur on healthy competition between Greeks.
- Use Greek Week to showcase to the community what we are all about…Symposium week - Sponsoring programs on campus with other house
- Have a community service day or week to highlight the aspects of service that Greeks volunteer for.
- Have a conference/convention each year between RPI chapters so that ideas and experiences can be shared.
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(Programming - continued)

- Annual community project that all chapters can participate in.
- Greek wide guest speaker events bringing in prominent alumni
- Greek/Alumni only Career Fair
- Workshops to develop leadership
- More events like Relay for Life—help to start one
- Avoid over-programming
- Block parties
- Social events with Troy and RPI (Greeks and non-Greeks)
- Take a day off of school to have a Greek festival (during GM week??) - Helps with happiness and school spirit
- Have some events where we combine IFC and PanHel into a “Greek commons planning group”
- More things like this event…just talking openly (once a semester)
- Improving Greek Week → Friends of the Greeks- Greek sponsored concert, event, philanthropy
- Better coordination and organization of rush
- Collaboration between Houses - Holding events together
- Facilitate events that get the attendance of Greeks and non-Greeks
- Healthy Competition

Communication

- A sense of communication between the administration and students to improve each other’s operations
  - We are more flexible and faster than other groups. We can be the test bed and get the ideas that work and address them on a campus level. Try something at a small scale and then see if it works
  - We are better at building communities all around compared to other groups
  - Better communication level would produce better community
  - If RPI had projects that they needed help they can ask us for help. We have to seek them out and we can be mutual help them reaching out to us.
Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 3:
“In what ways could the Greek Life Commons add value to the student experience at Rensselaer?”

(Communication – continued)

- Facilitate communication between all of the Greek organizations and campus life
- Communications - RPI should collect information on what Greek Life is doing and help get the results in the local papers, alumni newsletters and Inside Rensselaer.
- Collaboration between Houses - Holding events together
- Increase in communication between the chapters.
- Information sharing, communication, informal discussions
- Alumni Networking
- Networking Opportunity.

Financial

- Where’s our Share of Activities Fee? As Greeks we all pay AF, can the Union put on an event for GL?
- Having standards and business contacts to help houses work together as a community.
- Helping organizations to own chapter houses
- If there is going to be a Greek Commons, what we want is going to cost money, is the school willing to throw in the money?
  - For every requirement that this throws in, we need a program to help us fulfill the requirement, and we want grants to help us complete it.
  - If they promise to give us money to meet their demands, give us a fair warning on what they want and what they expect, then it would be good.
  - School needs to support Greek housing; they need to back the fraternities/sororities up in getting houses for them, such as AGD, Alpha Phi, Delta Phi, FIJI, APO, etc.
  - Administration must support Greeks!!! Have a more positive attitude with the Greeks, stop limiting us, stop trying to enclose us into some sort of document saying A, B and C must happen, and if not X, Y and Z are going to happen. If A, B and C happen, then 1, 2 and 3 are going to happen and it will be a little treat for us.
Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 3:

“In what ways could the Greek Life Commons add value to the student experience at Rensselaer?”

Positive Impact

- Enhancing the Quality of Student Life
  - Advising/mentorship
  - Organized housing
  - Academic Support and guidance- time management, course input, resume support, career fair prep. Although this exists on campus it is a person experience and they have a better idea of who you are.
- Self-determining living experience/enhances quality of life.
- Overall Campus Retention Rate
- Build a stronger community
- Overall Graduation Rate
- A Unique selling point for RPI/ thus for Greeks on national scale
- A force for integration within the different commons on campus
- Provides unique diverse community.
- Student influence on Res Life/Greek policies will be increased
- The opportunity for more events showing off Greek unity
- Community outreach will be more effective/positive –
- What can Greeks do to move beyond chapter events to a stronger Greek Community
  - Collective information source (Recruitment, Academics, Safety, House Improvement)
  - Work together to improve all accreditations of houses
  - Continued personal guidance
  - Continuously following up on the progress and failures- freely admit your failures and build from them.
  - Respect for Greek Life as a whole
- Community involvement for RPI students.
- The Greek Life Commons could improve alumni networking by creating a standardized system to reach out to alumni through the Greek Dean and the Alumni House.
Greek Life Commons planning event – Saturday, November 6, 2010

Responses from Working Session 2, Discussion Question 3:
“In what ways could the Greek Life Commons add value to the student experience at Rensselaer?”

Concerns/Needs

- Cannot be utilitarian, whatever it is, it has to be the best for every single chapter, if it’s just for the majority for the fraternities, then there are going to be those who are hurt.
- Concern: Are there going to be more requirements? Will the GLC be added more things to the list of things chapters already have to do?
  - If the programming is staying the same with no added requirements then it would be good. But adding extra requirements is bad news bears.
- The Greek like commons should work more as a toolbox to help houses than a way to police them.
- Eliminating one size fits all rules. Acknowledge the diversity of our chapters when it comes to things like size
- The avenue to help improve the issues Greeks are having
- Want a commonality between all houses
  - Community and inter-Greek relations
  - Plan things intelligently - Have an input from other houses before planned...Whenisgood/community calendar (Greek Google Calendar)
  - Utilize Greek Dean and Alumni
- Provide a support structure to share ideas and work together as Greeks, while respecting that Greeks do things correctly
- Finally work together as a partner
  - What can RPI do beyond RPI events? It’s not “your” thing to fix it’s our thing to fix. What is RPI thinking what are their thoughts on what is going on?
  - RPI takes credit for our good
  - More efficient if we know what is expected of us we would know exactly what is expected of us
  - Much more pleasant relationship.
- Maintaining the balance between the chapters and their own individual goals and the growth of the Greek life on campus
- Model recruitment after other colleges and campuses in order to prevent overspending and increase structure
- Need support of the Administration
- Fairness towards Greeks in general
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(Concerns/Needs – continued)

- What are we as Greeks getting out of this program? - Contacts with alumni, research programs, making more well-rounded individuals.
- Help chapters that need help, if you institute a program with some sort of punishment, then you need to institute a program that will help those that got the punishment, and furthermore, do we really want to punish our fellow Greeks, do we really want to help lower Greek numbers by punishing our own?
- RPI should contribute to the things we are doing - All Greeks are pulling from the same group of people. RPI can help us expand the pool.
- RPI Accountability - Kind of beating the dead horse here but how is RPI going to be held accountable for holding up their end of the bargain.
- Rules and guidelines for Greek organizations as well as for RPI

Education

- Improve Alumni Relations – through current Greek students understanding how they can be effective alumni
- Help Develop Greek Leaders - The IFC/PanHel conference is good but what about everyone else.
- Building mentoring skills and making them better leaders for the other organizations on campus and students in general. Greeks with good programs in non-competitive areas such as scholarship and community relations/philanthropy can help mentor other Greeks through partnerships
- Improve Scholarship/GPA through help with training of Scholarship Chairs
- Self improvement and development of Greek individuals as leaders, mentors, members of society, etc.