GREEK LIFE: New Directions

Rensselaer affirms that Greek life is an important and valuable asset to its undergraduate experience. Membership offers an opportunity for its students to engage in leadership, scholarship, service, and independent living-learning communities. In so doing, students establish life-long friendships and networks with alumni members.

Rensselaer aspires to establish, in partnership with active members and alumni, a Greek community

- aligned with the goals and initiatives in the Student Life Plan,
- sustainable as a vibrant and robust living-learning community, and
- acknowledged as a model that best represents the principles for life-long brotherhood/sisterhood, service, scholarship, and leadership.
Adding Value to the Undergraduate Experience

- Community
- Service & philanthropy
- Scholarship
- Leadership
- Independent living
- Personal & professional network
We are observing trends that signal a growing disconnect between Greek chapter values and principles and its actions through –

- A compromising of its values and integrity
- An increasing reliance on alcohol as its social base
- A decreasing academic performance in comparison to non-Greek and all campus performance
- A decreasing membership
- A compromising independent living management
- A decreasing cooperation between Greek chapters
- A holding on to a recruitment style out of touch with today’s Rensselaer student
## Five Year Trends in Greek Life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2001</th>
<th>Fall 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Greek</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Greek</td>
<td>1,432 (5,139)</td>
<td>1,127 (4,873)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Men, Fraternity</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Women, Sorority</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, Academic Performance - GPA (All Greek v. All Campus)</td>
<td>- 0.09</td>
<td>- 0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, Academic Performance - GPA (Fraternity v. All Campus)</td>
<td>- 0.11</td>
<td>- 0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, Academic Performance - GPA (Sorority v. All Campus)</td>
<td>+ 0.04</td>
<td>+ 0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Chapters, Residence</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Occupancy</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five Year Trends in Greek Life

Greek Chapter Enrollment (Undergraduate)

Semester
- % Fraternity
- % Sorority
- % Greek

F 2001: 32.2% 14.4% 0.0%
S 2002: 30.6% 14.7% 5.0%
F 2002: 30.1% 13.5% 10.0%
S 2003: 29.4% 15.5% 15.0%
F 2003: 29.1% 12.8% 20.0%
S 2004: 25.0% 15.0% 25.0%
F 2004: 26.4% 13.7% 25.3%
S 2005: 27.8% 16.5% 25.0%
F 2005: 25.7% 23.0% 23.1%
Five Year Trends in Greek Life

Fraternity Academic Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Fraternity</th>
<th>All Men</th>
<th>All Campus</th>
<th>Non-Greek Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F 2001</td>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 2002</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 2002</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 2003</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 2003</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>S 2004</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>3.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>F 2004</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>S 2005</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 2005</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five Year Trends in Greek Life

Sorority Academic Performance

- Sorority
- All Women
- All Campus
- Non-Greek Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F 2001</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 2002</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 2002</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 2003</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 2003</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 2004</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 2004</td>
<td>3.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 2005</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 2005</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five Year Trends in Greek Life

All Greek Academic Performance

- All Greek
- All Campus
- All Non-Greeks

Five Year Trends in Greek Life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F 2001</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 2002</td>
<td>2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 2002</td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 2003</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>F 2003</td>
<td>3.05</td>
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</table>
Senior Survey 2005

Drank Beer

[Source: 2005 Rensselaer/UCLA Senior Survey, Crosstabulation analysis based on “Joined a social fraternity or sorority” compared to “drank beer”; N = 756, N\text{\textsubscript{Greek}} = 231, N\text{\textsubscript{Non - Greek}} = 525]
Senior Survey 2005
Drank Wine or Liquor

[Source: 2005 Rensselaer/UCLA Senior Survey, Crosstabulation analysis based on “Joined a social fraternity or sorority” compared to “drank wine or liquor”; N = 756, N Greek = 231, N Non-Greek = 525]
Senior Survey 2005
Partying - Both Men & Women

[Source: 2005 Rensselaer/UCLA Senior Survey, Crosstabulation analysis based on “Joined a social fraternity or sorority” compared to “hours per week spent partying”; N = 756, N_{Greek} = 231, N_{Non-Greek} = 525]
Operational Principles

- Greek life is an important part of our history, adds value to the undergraduate experience, and must continue as a vital component of the Rensselaer community.
- Rensselaer is committed to elevate Greek life to a national model of excellence.
- To accomplish this, Rensselaer in collaboration with its Greek community, will establish a new direction that:
  - Extends Rensselaer’s on-campus alcohol policy to include Greek chapters, effective July 1, 2006.
  - Develops and implements a new member recruitment process to become effective July 1, 2007.
  - Assures a house director be in place for every chapter having its own residence, whether on or off campus, effective July 1, 2007.
New Directions

I. Alcohol – Expand Rensselaer on-campus alcohol policy to include all Greek life Chapters; Effective July 1, 2006

- No consumption or storage of alcohol in any common areas on property occupied, owned or leased by a Rensselaer fraternity or sorority
- Members who are 21 or over may possess, store and consume alcohol only in the privacy of their individual rooms
- Social events are to be alcohol free unless it takes place in an approved 3rd party location
- Policy applies at all times, under all circumstances, in all venues
II. New Member Recruitment and Education

(transforming recruitment from Rush to year-long recruitment)

- Delay new member recruitment to begin no earlier than the sixth week of classes in the Fall semester
- Focus recruitment to showcase Greek life as a community and highlight features of individual chapters
- Recruitment period to end one week prior to the last day of classes
- Extend an invitation to join (bid) to prospective members no later than the last day of classes
II. New Member Recruitment and Education

- Pledge/new member education period begins the Spring semester and end before Spring Break (about the 8th week)
- New member recruitment policy and process, effective July 1, 2007
III. Chapter Management / House Director

- House Director is to advise, support, and assist with educational programming and management of chapter facility.
- Assure continuity as leadership changes from year to year.
- Model after Residence Life process (selection and training).
- Enable actives to retain autonomy and independence with appropriate intervention as necessary from the House Director.
- Dual Reporting – House Corporation and Greek Dean.
Strengthening Greek Life at Rensselaer

- Align founding principles and values with chapter performance
  - Brotherhood and sisterhood
  - Scholarship
  - Leadership
  - Service and philanthropy

- History
  - Elevate Greek life to a national model of excellence
  - Capitalize on campus expertise
  - Develop a leadership transition plan

- Align Greek life with the Undergraduate Plan
  - Develop and implement annual chapter leadership training using outside consultants
  - Develop Greek life as living-learning communities
  - Collaborate with chapter and alumni leadership to develop alcohol free events
  - Improve academic performance to be exceed all-campus performance
Institute Resources

- Rensselaer Support – campus volunteers
  - Health & Wellness – Terri Kersch, Health Center
  - Budget Management – Colleen Martin, Financial Operations Analyst, Procurement and Administrative Services
  - Alumni Relations – Jeff Schanz, Director, Alumni Relations
  - Communications – Diane Piester, Art Director, Communications
  - Cost Analysis and Pricing – Chris Berry, Capital Finance & Banking, Treasurer’s Office
  - Risk Management & Insurance – Jack Butridge, Office of Risk Management
  - Dean of Students Office – Mark Smith, Travis Apgar, Jessica Wickiewicz

- Consultants
  - Socializing without Alcohol, May 1-2: Rick Barnes
  - New Member Recruitment Process, September-December: David Stollman
  - Event Planning, September-October: TBA
Time Line for Implementation

- Rensselaer Campus Alcohol Policy Expanded to Include Greek Life
  - Effective July 1, 2006

- New Member Recruitment
  - Planning Phase: April through December, 2006
  - Implementation Phase: January through May, 2007
  - Effective July 1, 2007

- House Director
  - Effective July 1, 2007
Forging New Partnerships

- Planning for and doing Alcohol Free Events
  - IFC / Panhel / Rensselaer Committee to plan and implement events and activities that showcase Greek life and individual chapters

- New Member Recruitment & Education
  - Recruitment strategies
  - Align with national/international process and Rensselaer initiatives
  - Recruitment timeline
  - Pledging process and timeline

- House Director
  - Review, enhance, and manage chapter resources to meet residence cost and building maintenance