

Overview –Mark Smith

Eddie Knowles

- Update on Greek life
- “old news revisited”
- Rick Hart as project manager on directives
- “significant progress”
- Meeting to reaffirm where we are
- Signoff did not occur till November 07
- Greek life to the institution
 - 2000 – Rensselaer Plan –guiding what is happening now
- Change in student body over last 7 years
 - more clubs
 - more athletic students
 - Increase in artistic activities
 - more diversity
- “go bury the Tute Screw”
- East Campus Athletic Village completion by 2009
- Field house renovations to come soon
- Increase in theme houses
 - -Entrepreneurship house?
 - -Service house APO
- Institution making changes to improve position as graduates
- 2006 Directions
 - “Correct trends in the Greek system”
 - “recruitment down below 30%”
- “Goal for Greek life at Rensselaer to become a national model of excellence”
- “Greek houses are ideal Living and Learning communities”
 - “Want houses to join in as per other Living and Learning communities already in residence halls”
 - “strategic advantage”
- “International Experiences”
- “Thinking outside the traditional Greek Life box”
- “Not about alcohol, its about the bigger picture”
- “Greek life is an unrealized asset”
- Spoke with AIGC and RAA
 - both agree with model of excellence concept

Mark Smith

- Overview and Progress
- “Greek life plays critical role in undergrad experience”
 - Higher retention rates for Greeks
 - Higher graduation rate for Greeks

Greek Life Initiatives Meeting at RSE 2/25/08

- “Greek life creates a sense of commitment”
- Recruitment + New member education
 - Curtail 16-18 week pledging to 12 weeks including rush
 - “Increase in bid acceptance in Fall 07”
 - May have 30-35% of campus Greek by the fall
- Initiative
 - House Director
 - Not feasible for all chapters
 - Off table and gone
 - Recruitment + Education
 - moving to 12 week period
 - Social Life
 - “capitalize on it”
 - alcohol
 - Better way than letting the judicial system weed out houses
 - Revamp 12 year old policy
 - “IFC not prepared for pressures of enforcement”
 - Events must be registered, BYOB, guest list/invitation
 - Houses did comply
 - Good Samaritan policy
 - Get help for intoxicated individuals
 - Amnesty for those who get assistance
 - Reinstatement policy
 - If mistakes are made and acknowledged
 - chapter makes changes to prevent further occurrences and reinstatement policy takes effect
- “quality of organizations is based on the members”
- “Greeks are here to stay”
- Greeks took a proactive stand
- Goal of a great Greek system instead of an individual house being great
- Be active in IFC and Panhel
- Jessica as an advocate instead of judicial hearing officer

Rick Hart

- Value of Greek life
- Great experience coming together to discuss and create the new directions

Jessica

- Thank you to all who helped with the development of the new directions
- keep communication open

Roger Grice

- Tons of progress since April
- Don't rush into an announcement, take time and be cautious
 - avoid a repeat of April 12 2006

Questions and Comments

S: Shannon -school needs to fund Greek dean's office much better

A: Eddie Knowles – possibly more to come, approval pending. Prioritizing needs to be revised. Many projects on campus need more money. “Cash poor institution?” Making the case for strategic investment in Greek life. Combination of Alumni endowment + campus funds. FYE is endowed as is the Archer Center. All gifts are welcome.

A: Mark Anderson – donations can be earmarked for anything on campus. Everyone should know about the past. Read the relationship statement. Participate in AIGC IFC Panhel.

S: Cary Nadel(RSE)- Part of the reinstatement policy, call Mark Anderson if in need of assistance if in hot water

Q: Brian Keating – Independent studies, credit for leadership positions?

A: Mark Smith – see me with ideas, good possibility

Q: Psi U advisor- 4 week rush period? 8 week pledging? Initiation would be during finals

A: Mark Smith – Yes. Possibly changing initiation time earlier or later possibly after formal education ends

Q: Psi U advisor- Alcohol education for all of campus, TIPS training for everyone

A: Mark Smith – No full campus education

Q: PSI U- Off campus parties are the real problem

A: Mark Smith- good idea for full education for whole campus

Q: Lis Gallant – cutting down recruitment period is counter intuitive after mentioning chapter quality is based on members

A: Mark Smith – No

A: Jessica Wick – Bids available year round, recruitment never ends for individuals.

S: Brian Keating –trying to work out how to possibly use 2 weeks of IFC rush effectively and goals of IFC rush. No clear definition of IFC rush

A: Mark Smith – individual house events approved by IFC works

A: Mark Anderson (RSE)- got community to think about what they were doing and now its time to sit down and work it out

A: Cary Nadel(RSE)- working together we can figure this out go to AIGC/IFC

S: Roger Grice- Rumors about what Dr Jackson has signed off on, possible to get a copy of the document?

A: Mark Smith –trying to connect Greek life with undergraduate plan. Good Samaritan policy was approved by Dr. Knowles. Dr. Jackson approved alcohol plan. Recruitment still not set in stone.

Greek Life Initiatives Meeting at RSE 2/25/08

Q: Brian Keating –opportunity for leadership who is going to be implementing to see document from doc Jackson

A: Mark Smith- within next week

Q: why one week notice on meeting for something that happened in November

A: Mark Smith- my fault

A: Eddie Knowles –fall semester timeline didn't allow for it

S: Eddie Knowles –Information not a secret. Spread the word

S: Shannon- Recruitment team will not support document approved by Dr. Jackson

S: Jessica wick- recruitment piece not set in stone, 5 year process to finalize

S: Roger Grice – AIGC did not approve rush plan that school is billing as approved by AIGC

S: Poly Rep –everybody working on documents but still a huge disconnect. Paper trail is missing, why?

A: Mark Smith- in an attempt to get information out there was a breakdown. Documents appeared to be widely disseminated in parts but never sent out as a whole to everyone

Q: 5 year plan moving forward

A: Mark Smith – disseminate info, review it and comment on it. Actual documents sent out to presidents list.

Q: dissemination the same as approval? Opinions important but ignored?

A: Mark Smith –depended on opinions received last year