

Alumni Inter-Greek Council – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Fall Meeting: April 19, 2008
Shellnut Gallery, Student Union

AIGC Vice-President Roger Mike called the meeting to order at **9:00 a.m.**

Attending organizations: 26 out of 34 active organizations were in attendance (1 of 2 suspended fraternities attended). Attendance list with emails attached at end of the minutes.

Present: Acacia, Alpha Chi Rho, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Omega Epsilon, Alpha Phi Chi Phi*, Delta Phi, Lambda Chi Alpha, FIJI, Phi Kappa Tau*, Phi Kappa Theta, Phi Mu Delta, Pi Beta Phi, Pi Delta Psi, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Lambda Phi, Rensselaer Society of Engineers, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Delta, Tau Epsilon Phi, Theta Chi, Theta Xi, Zeta Beta Tau, Zeta Psi

Not Present: Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Sigma Phi, Delta Tau Delta, Lambda Upsilon Lambda, Phi Iota Alpha, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Tau Kappa Epsilon*

Reports:

- **IFC**
 - The IFC @ RPI 2008
 - Where we started
 - Where we are now
 - Where we're going
 - Where we started
 - Little trust in the IFC
 - Poor communication between IFC and other facets of Rensselaer
 - In financial peril
 - No defined or understood role
 - Where we started
 - Began by setting goals
 - Met with houses One on One
 - Started to develop new relationships
 - Brought discussions into IFC Meetings
 - Set out to improve our website
 - Where we are now
 - Finances under control
 - Accomplishing many of our goals
 - New relationships with each other and campus
 - Bill Walker in communications, Nondorf for admissions
 - Stronger committees
 - Housing maintenance committee
 - Crisis management plan
 - Volunteering at Public School 2
 - Accepted Students Celebration (worked with Nondorf on this)
 - Greek Week extremely successful
 - Upgrade on NRB Soap Box Derby
 - 1 week IFC Rush (followed by 3-4 of chapter rush)
 - Website going strong, continually improving
 - Seen as a helpful liaison between Rensselaer and Fraternities
 - Seen as a facilitator between fraternities

- Where we're going
 - The future is our true concern
 - *Model of Growth*
 - New officer transitions
 - Four week time span
 - New aspects of elections
 - 2 minute introduction
 - Candidate dinner
 - Shadowing Period
 - Inauguration Ceremony
 - IFC Alumni Mailing List
 - Thanks!
 - AIGC has been a key part of our improvements
 - Striving for sustainability
 - Always looking for new ideas and suggestions
- **Panhellenic:**
 - Panhellenic Council Recruitment
 - Successful Spring Recruitment
 - 30+ new sisters
 - Current Sorority Membership Numbers
 - Alpha Gamma Delta- 71
 - Alpha Phi- 69
 - Pi Beta Phi- 61
 - Alpha Omega Epsilon- 38
 - Sigma Delta- 9
 - Accomplishments of Panhel
 - Karen Mack and Michelle Pelersi attended the National Greek Leadership Conference in CT
 - Academic Achievement Award
 - Online banking
 - Associate member upgrade
 - Successful Past Panhel Events
 - Greek Lip Sync, November 6th
 - Panhel Sorority Trivia Social
 - Supported Heidi Spruce, CC
 - Test your Attitudes
 - Alcohol Awareness
 - Upcoming Panhel Events
 - Panhellenic Council Newsletter
 - Panhellenic Council Elections
 - Study Days snacks and coffee
 - Fall Recruitment, August 28th
 - **Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs:** Jessica Wickiewicz and Mark Smith were in attendance. Jessica reported on 5STAR and judicial standing. For summer housing, Troy code enforcement may be more active. Jessica needs names of the summer house managers so she can contact them if any issues. Keep your houses maintained. Rush results from last fall were 700 bids given and 300 back in – no results yet of initiation

rate. Some of the 700 bids given were repeat bids/overlap of one person getting multiple bids.

Overall it was a good year. Judicial was much better: the social policy and event management guide is helping, IFC is stronger and holding groups accountable. There are good chapters and shaky chapters: chapter management, officer leadership issues and accountability (ideas for training?), sophomore officers and seniors not wanting to listen to them, financial and housing issues. Mark Smith mentioned again that the situation of independent students at fraternity social events is still the biggest alcohol problem that they deal with. OFSA is trying more now to determine if a chapter or individual issue. With the event registrations, the Duty Dean and Public Safety are given notification of the event so as part of their rounds they stop by out front. They have actually helped in some cases, since their report has countered allegations of some students.

Chapter standings for the 5STAR are:

5 Star: AGD, Alpha Phi, Delta Phi, LXA, Pi Beta Phi, Pikes, and SAE

4 Star: AXP, AEPi, AOE, Kappa Alpha Psi, LUL, FIJI, Phi Iota Alpha, Ski Lodge, Phi Mud, PiDiPsi, Castle, Pi Lambda Phi, Psi Upsilon, RSE, Sigma Chi, Sig Ep, TEP, Theta Chi and Theta Xi

3 Star: Acacia, Alpha Sigma Phi, DTD, Sigma Delta and Zeta Psi

0 Star: Alpha Phi Alpha (did not apply on time), Phi Kappa Tau (suspended), TKE (suspended) and ZBT (did not apply on time)

Chi Phi and Phi Sigma Kappa were excused as they had just been reactivated

Current Suspensions: Phi Kappa Tau (not working positively), Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Awards ceremony at 11am in Academy Hall. (*Recipients were announced there, but included here in the minutes as part of her report after the 5 STAR standings*) 5 Star results and Awards of Excellence will be posted in category order those who fall under 5 Star and their name, names of award winners, and honorable mentions. Jessica understands the views of some of the AIGC on how Lehigh posts their results, but they also have a larger staff and more time to dedicate to their website and posting information, it has already been discussed between Jessica, Mark Smith, and Rich that they will not be dedicating their valuable time to listing the 5 Star like Lehigh does, also we have some chapters who do not wish to have their information posted and if there is not full buy in, Jessica will not put a hodge-podge of information on the site making it look as one chapter has an advantage over another with their "personal" information being posted. Jessica does not have the big spreadsheet like last year.

From the 11 am reception, the following awards were announced:

Academic Excellence: Alpha Gamma Delta
Honorable Mention Delta Phi

Citizenship: Delta Phi
Honorable Mention Pi Kappa Alpha

Leadership and Campus Involvement: Lambda Upsilon Lambda

Honorable Mention Pi Kappa Alpha

**Inter/national Organization Relationships
and Alumni/Advisor Participation:** Alpha Gamma Delta
Honorable Mention Sigma Phi Epsilon

Community Service: Pi Kappa Alpha
Honorable Mention Lambda Chi Alpha

Greek Relations: Lambda Chi Alpha
Honorable Mention Pi Beta Phi

Risk Management: Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Honorable Mention Phi Kappa Theta

House Beautification: Alpha Gamma Delta
Honorable Mention Sigma Chi

Membership Recruitment and Development: Lambda Chi Alpha
Honorable Mention Delta Phi

Administrative Responsibility and Chapter Management: Delta Tau Delta
Honorable Mention Pi Kappa Alpha

Top Scholars: Michael Milligan and Ryan Sylvestre
Jessie K Fortier Memorial Award: Alpha Phi's Lindsey Woodhull
Chapter Advisor of the Year: Delta Phi's Roger Mike
Greek Man of the Year: Pi Kappa Alpha's John Whalen
Greek Woman of the Year: Pi Beta Phi's Charlotte Kaplan

The Overall President's Award of Excellence (Chapter of the Year): Pi Kappa Alpha

- **Dean of Students, Mark Smith**

Mark Smith talked first about the Relationship Statement update and the Student Handbook update for 2008-2010 printing. Some aspects may require updates in the RS. Mark Smith aids he would send the update to Roger Grice and Roger Mike. Mark announced a meeting arranged with John Whalen, Charlotte Kaplan, and Damean (?) with President Jackson as senior leaders and Greeks. John Whalen talked a little and will follow-up with a meeting with the AIGC board to provide clarification of his unabridged notes that were sent out prior to the meeting (*included at the end of these minutes*). SAJ fears things are too chapter centric and she was not aware of current affairs and student initiatives. She tends to get her impressions from Division of Student Life and the Board of Trustees and the high profile incidents – not from the rank and file and the broad greek community. The meeting helped to open her eyes and she seemed happy with the direction. Whalen initiated the meeting.

Mark then provided an overview of the student life reorganization. (*He did not allow a copy of his slides to be saved, but the organization charts he discussed were presented at Pres. Jackson's Town Hall on March 17, so they are copied and included here – a little hard to read*). The acronym CLASS (Clustered Learning Advocacy and Support of Students) is the new model for Cluster Deans for the dorms and also the new associate dean for Greek Life. Greeks will now have 2 people. There are 2 new Assistant VPs for Student Life and Res Life. A question about

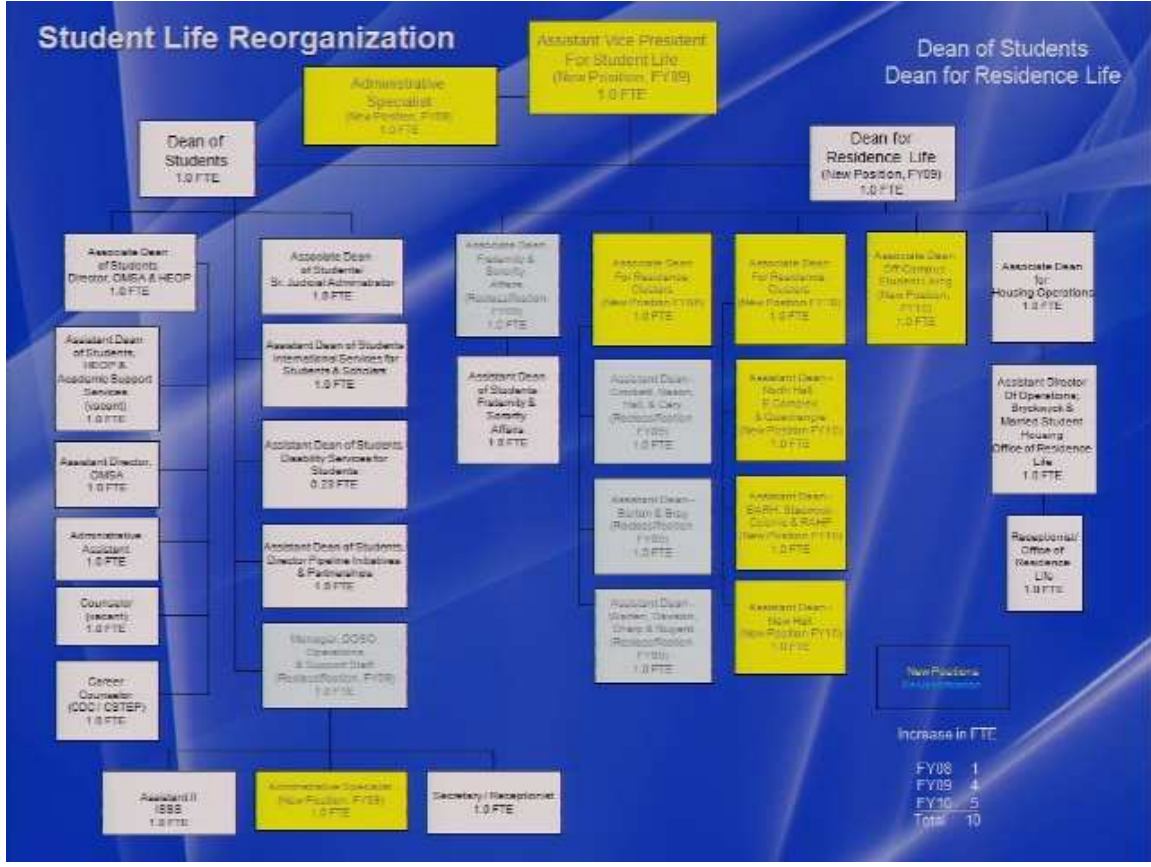
the parity of budgets on a per capita basis for the Associate dean level was answered by saying Greeks will get more than they have, but likely not per capita equivalence (a comment then was made that a 100% increase from \$4,000 to \$8,000 only gets us back to where we were 10 years ago). As for the sophomore year experience (a.k.a. sophomore housing requirement), they are just looking now at capacities, checking the housing stock. Greeks are being looked at with “caveats.” There may be billing and financial aid benefits. When asked specifically who is leading this (since at the March Town Hall Pres. Jackson mentioned discussions were happening), Mark said it was Eddie Knowles. The new Res Life positions will be filled for the summer (July 1 intent) and the new positions will lead the efforts (for implementation?). It was stated/asked that this seemed to be a huge bureaucracy increase likely to be at least \$1M for the added officers. Mark Smith simply said yes.

Jay Webb and others had some comments. *Basic gist of banter:* What is driving this? Nature of students is different. Parents and school have higher expectations of more involvement; helicopter parents – in parenti loci. Students away and gain independence, but fewer students today are really prepared for that. So earlier intervention is wanted. Retention was 93% for freshman and then to 81% upon graduation – what happens? Greeks retain 97% for freshman class and NRB is now helping reach overall rate of 95% (meaning 94% rate for independents, which is up from ~90 a few years ago). Thereafter the rates for Greeks remain better as time goes on. Desire is to raise the graduation rate and how can student life help assist all students to graduate? The next cohort years will be included to monitor trends and the belief of the Institute is that by class deans, cluster deans, international deans, graduate student deans that this will help. The goal of the reorg is to further help the goal of more students graduating. Among the reasons for leaving now are: Financial, family, cultural change of school, coasting in high school. Greeks can help if students are willing and honest enough to tell need help (e.g. early warning system, pledge education, scholarship chairs – but privacy laws make it tough; the grade release forms and Greek Bursar holds can easily be signed by pledges are the start of pledging and holds throughout their years at the school). Question about ability to have different programming (or return to programming like Navigating the Social Scene) for freshmen alcohol awareness, but no easy answer there. Alcohol is not the biggest problem, but gets the attention.

A question came up: With increased medical needs (psychiatric and medication) of students, who do we talk to discretely? - talk to Jessica or Mark and Counseling Center. Privacy laws make it hard to know who is having problems. More students are coming with baggage and need to be aware of that.

Homecoming/Family Weekend is Oct 17-19 and the Alumni House is available to help advertise chapter events and will be holding another Greek focused event. IFC and Panhel will also be participating with exposure that weekend by working with FYE/NRB.

FY09 Student Life Portfolio Reorganization Plan: First-Year Experience, Class Deans, Graduate Experience



- **FIGC:** Reports and Discussions ensued as reported below.

Greek Leadership Summit (Ray Lutzky, AXA):

- Successful summit. IFC/Panhel/AIGC officer tract was interactive and discussion and activity based. The Chapter officer tract was informative, but more lecture based. We'll use the feedback received and improve that portion. We'll be sure to have coffee and some food for the start of the day. This year's budget was sparse, so could pay for only the lunch. Several alumni basically paid for the event by their donations to RPI, but directed to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (or Greek Life) – so we encourage more alumni to do the same. We may try to expand to have the alumni advisor tract as was done a few years ago. Looking for another keynote and more facilitators, so if interested contact Ray Lutzky (lutzkr@rpi.edu)

Housing Committee (Art Depoian, ACACIA)

Art presented the following report:

- Members:
 - Art Depoian, Acacia
 - Jim Hanley, Chi Phi
 - Rick Kasold, Zeta Psi
 - Jim Ljunglin, Zeta Psi
 - Robert Miller, Delta Phi
 - Aren Paster, Tau Epsilon Phi
 - AIGC Liaison – Jerry Witter, Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- Objectives:
 - Improve the quality of Greek Housing
 - Work cooperatively
 - Identify Resources
- CONCERNS:
 - Alumni volunteers are limited. It seems that fewer younger alumni have the building skills.
 - Poor database for handymen, contractors, architects, advisors, property managers.
 - Students, with good intentions, perform substandard work and introduce code violations.
- ACTIVITIES:
 - Held one meeting in Troy and several conference calls.
- ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
 - Zeta Psi has hired a local person to function as a handyman.
 - Joe Fama (TEP Alumnus) from Troy Architectural Project is available to assist Greek Houses. <http://www.tapinc.org/>
- MOVING FORWARD:
 - More involvement - assign specific tasks. (Contractor and supplier database. Who to call? Suggestions for commercial grade materials, etc.)
 - Work together to find a way to get the "easy" things completed more effectively, EHS items (fire extinguisher inspections, etc.)
 - Continue with regular meetings, in-person and by phone.
 - Investigate how best to work with RPI resources.
 - Get the housing health survey completed
- Short List of contractors – need to get this cleaned up and enhanced – Mark Frost of RPI should be able to help with RPI's list of contractors
 - James Schirmer & sons
 - Bourque Mechanical

- Fire Alarm: International Built-in Systems, Protection One Monitoring - Albany Protection System
- Phone system - Tech Valley Associates
- Damiano Masonry 843-1064
- Brewer Wood Flooring 283-3849
- Ed Matthews (Fire sprinklers)
- Cropseyville Doors (Fire Doors)
- Plumbing: Quackenbush & Haegle Plumbing,
- Plumbing: Crisfulli (heating system and plumbing)
- HVAC, environmental: T.J. Bell, P.O. Box 800 Valatie, NY 12184 518-392-6849 (asbestos and HVAC)
- Carpenters: Paul Mesiti Contracting
- JAF Contractions P.O. Box 943, Schenectady, NY 12301 518-382-0574, Jim Facci
- Electricians: Power Plus Electric, Trojan Hardware
- Washer and Dryer Lease or Buy: CoinMach, P.O. Box 27288, New York, NY 10087
- General Contracting but may be too big: Bennett Contracting, Apple Contracting, Duncan and Kahill
- Roto-Rooter for clogged drains
- Housing Health Survey Results to Date
 - 12 Chapters have responded (Need more to better gage our system and provide better foundation of fact)
 - 60% occupancy rate, 58% live-in rate
 - \$1.3M in total budgets
 - \$2.3M in assessed property value
 - \$190,000 in taxes
 - \$86,000 in insurance
 - \$100,000 in alumni donations
 - \$17,400 in scholarships annually

Discussion on Housing: idea for community sponsored “superintendent” or property manager/handyman on retainer to handle things like EHS items (fire extinguishers, stove hood fans and Ansel). Mark Smith mentioned several pre-college programs and summer programs of RPI will use housing and the option to use greek houses is an opportunity of being part of Res Life. Programs will likely be 2-8 weeks, can work to add your chapter to the list of housing options.

Next meetings:

August for President’s meeting/retreat?

September for Advisors?

October for AIGC?

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Attendance Contact Sheet

Chapter	FirstName	LastName	Email	Phone
Acacia	Bennet	Chan	bchan@ayco.com	518-669-3698
Acacia	Art	Depoian	adepoian@alum.rpi.edu	518-265-6069
Alpha Chi Rho	Adam	Metzler	metzla@rpi.edu	631-806-9646
Alpha Epsilon Pi				
Alpha Omega Epsilon	Laurel	White	laurelmwhite@gmail.com	315-292-3266
Alpha Phi	Tiffany	Westendorf	tpinard@alum.rpi.edu	
Alpha Phi/Panhel	Karen	Mack	mackk@rpi.edu	
Alpha Phi Alpha				
Alpha Gamma Delta	Kirsten	Kropp	kikers22@yahoo.com	703-314-0253
Alpha Sigma Phi				
Chi Phi	James	Hanley	james.j.hanley@gmail.com	732-995-3234
Delta Phi	Robert	Miller	miller@alum.rpi.edu	518-274-2670
Delta Phi	Roger	Mike	rmike10@verizon.net	518-383-2590
Delta Tau Delta				
Phi Gamma Delta	Neil	Eklund	eklund@research.ge.com	
Phi Iota Alpha				
Phi Kappa Tau	Dennis	Karius	denkarius@yahoo.com	
Phi Kappa Theta	Chris	Hayes	havesc1@gmail.com	518-428-7012
Phi Kappa Theta/IFC	Nicky	Hajal	nhajal@gmail.com	
Phi Kappa Theta	Erwin	Schweigardt	schweigardt@hotmail.com	518-482-0487
Phi Mu Delta	Steve	Smith	sbsmith5@gmail.com	518-270-5939
Phi Sigma Kappa	Richard	Felak	felak@pop.net	
Lambda Chi Alpha	Ray	Lutzky	lutzkr@rpi.edu	
Lambda Upsilon Lambda				
Pi Beta Phi	Lindsey	McKeen	Mckeel2@rpi.edu	
Pi Beta Phi/AIGC	Ann	Dodson	adodson@nycap.rr.com	
Pi Delta Psi	Peter	Tu	peter.tup@gmail.com	781-264-6346
Pi Kappa Alpha	John	Whalen	walej@rpi.edu	
Pi Kappa Phi	Joe	Templin	headgeek@unique-minds.com	
Pi Lambda Phi	Patrick	DiCaprio	Patrick.dicaprio@gmail.com	
Psi Upsilon	Joseph	Horton	Joseph.hortonJr@gmail.com	
RSE	Mark	Anderson	wodenickel@aol.com	
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	John	Thomas	jsae@hotmail.com	518-727-2487
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	Jonathan	Witter	jonathan.witter@gmail.com	518-421-8200
Sigma Chi				
Sigma Delta	Nini	Chavez	chaven@rpi.edu	
Sigma Phi Epsilon				
Tau Epsilon Phi	Marco	Aimi	marco@alum.rpi.edu	
Tau Kappa Epsilon				
Theta Chi	Todd	Snelson	snelst@rpi.edu	
Theta Chi	Rich	Boroway	rboroway@aol.com	
Theta Xi	Brad	Spencer	bspencer1517@gmail.com	518-258-7107
Zeta Beta Tau	Frank	Zadroga	fzadroga@achaeon.com	518-221-6616
Zeta Psi	Jim	Ljunglin	ljunglin@yahoo.com	908-766-7954
Zeta Psi	Jay	Webb	Jwebb02@snet.net	
Zeta Psi	Tony	Bourassa		518-899-5415

Notes from Undergraduate Senior Leaders meeting the week of April 7, 2008 with The Honorable President Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D. – John Whalen (ΠΚΑ), Charlotte Kaplan (ΠΒΦ), Damean ??(RSE) These are the raw meeting notes from John Whalen, so read them with that in mind. It is hard to tell which comments are students and which are Pres. Jackson's

Two main concerns:

- Chapter Concentric
- Distrust of Administration

Houses in general are only focused on themselves. They show little pride in being

- at RPI,
- an IFC or
- an international fraternity.

In her time here she has seen things decline. And that was the focus of the initiatives.....

Was happy to hear the changes that we have seen in the last four years

- Alcohol Awareness and safety
- increased unity/decrease in vicious rivalries.
- increase in quality alumni involvement

Not the intent of, but these changes were a result of the initiatives

- Forced students and alumni to "unit to survive"
- How can we sustain what we started without the fear?
- How can we incorporate with non Greeks

Rush Creates an immediate Chasm between Greeks and non Greeks

- Immediately separates Greek students and rest of campus
- Non Greeks have much less interactions with pledges after RUSH
- Events and ways to bring campus and campus groups together?

Pride of place and its role

- Lacking
- Many reason to be proud
 - Pride in a historic institute
 - Pride in a large and deep rooted Greek community
 - Pride in National Organizations that have produced so many great people
- Breeds cohesion and collaboration
- Healthy community
- Working to a common goal
- Pride of being part of something bigger than yourself

You cannot grow and work against one another at the same time.

Why should we support a group that is trying so hard to fight us and push us away?

- Cultural change getting used to things changing
- Always breeds conflict

If the Institute paid for Live-In's would Greek Life support it?

- No bc of distrust, "spying" on students
- They are an asset for RSE and younger students like it, older ones don't

- Change in culture

Move to ResLife is aimed

- More resources
 - New Associate Dean
 - More money for programming
- Improving the housing stock

Allow Institute To Administer Capital Fund for houses

- Tax free donations
- Institute must audit books
 - Chapters don't want them looking
 - Institute would be at risk of losing exemption if fiscally irresponsible
- Example how help is there, but with sacrifice
- Not control, but oversight necessary
- Institute taking a risk for houses

Allowing sophomores to live-in houses instead of on campus

- Institute at risk
- Large Recruitment incentive for Greeks
- Liable for "encouraging" students to live in
- Both parties have vested interest in improving houses
- Increased oversight needed due to increased risk

Other schools

- Wants to send her staff to other schools to see what's being done
- Students should travel to other schools
 - "That is something you might want to ask the administration for funding for"
- Expressed hope that I stay in contact with campus as I visit other Greek systems next year