

AIGC Greek Housing Financial and Operational Health Study

Roll out – November 10, 2007

All chapters are invited to join in a Greek Housing Financial and Operational Study, whose purpose is to collect data on the overall financial and operational health of the RPI Greek community and rebuild the AIGC contact database. The OFSA Occupancy Report in the past has been used, but many suspect it of some inaccurate data since it is primarily filled out with limited undergraduate input. The RPI Administration in some of its deliberations may not have an accurate view of the health of the system. This may have contributed to some of the justification for the initial housing initiative in the spring of 2006 and the continued opinions about the chapter house facility operations.

The attendees at the October 2007 AIGC meeting endorsed this survey in order to gain factual data and hopefully aid in the formulation of a position for future strategies. When the research was performed into the retention and membership data and into the true costs of a house director programs, the school is able to adjust their view and plans, so this information can be important for all of us. As “Living and Learning” theme housing are promoted and campus housing requirement for sophomores is investigated, the need for a strong position of fact from the Greek community is high.

Collecting data is straightforward. Jonathan “Jerry” Witter, Alumni Advisor to Sigma Alpha Epsilon designed an Excel spreadsheet based on the 2006 MIT FSILG survey, the OFSA Occupancy Report, and a past AIGC survey from the late 1990’s. This is all the data that will be collected - simply and easily and securely. The Excel spreadsheet may be downloaded from the AIGC website at:

http://www.alumni.rpi.edu/services/affinity/AIGC/Resources/housing_survey.xls

You can e-mail your responses to jonathan.witter@gmail.com. All individual chapter data will be kept confidential. The aggregate is what is important. Please note there are definitions of each data element to the side and an example data set on the survey sheet.

Only the aggregate data will be public. It will be shared as needed to make a case to RPI administration for their understanding of the impact of Greek student housing on the community and to lay the foundation for potential financial help in the future. It will also help all of us see the larger trends in our community’s financial picture and share best practices of our organizations and provide examples of our alumni networking to support the undergraduate students.

Also be aware that the IRS is revising the reporting requirements for not-for-profit organizations and all groups will need to file at least a postcard beginning in 2008. See www.irs.gov/charities/index.html for more information.

Several Alumni Corporations have already agreed to participate. So organizationally things are off to a good start for this survey. All chapters are invited to participate. The larger the sample size, the firmer the conclusions can be. For questions or to get started, please feel free to contact either “Jerry” Witter at jonathan.witter@gmail.com or Roger Grice at rgrice@hvc.rr.com.