fraternity & sorority affairs

2015-2016 Annual Report

Respectfully Submitted By

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I. General Comments

During the 2015-2016 academic year the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs reinforced existing policies and procedures, created new policies and procedures, and implemented new programs. All of these efforts have but one goal in mind. That goal is to enhance the fraternity and sorority community at Oklahoma State University and make being a member of a Greek-letter fraternity or sorority an extraordinarily beneficial experience for the students of Oklahoma State University. The fraternity and sorority community at OSU responded by excelling in academics, leadership, community service and philanthropy.

II. Liaison Reports

Welcome Week

The Welcome Week Committee was reestablished and consisted of campus partners. The Coordinator served as the liaison from the office. The Assistant Director and Coordinator made time available at a House Corporation Presidents’ Meetings for both Missy Wikle and Palvih to appeal to the men’s organizations to allow new students to move in early enough for Welcome Week. Thus far that effort has been fruitless. While conversations will continue to try to get more support and collaboration from the chapters the Assistant Director believes that the chapters must see more value for their new members to support the program. The most important event fraternity and sorority students were involved in during the festivities was the Convocation on Friday, August 14, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in Gallagher-Iba Arena. Efforts continue to make this the case in the fall of 2016 as well.

Alumni Association

While a liaison assignment of the Assistant Director, both professional staff members meet periodically with Melisa Parkerson, Director of Student Programming for the OSU Alumni Association. Meetings allowed for updates to Campus Life on Homecoming, SAB and other events of interest.

University & Community Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

The University & Community Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition had been resurrected under the chairmanship of Scott Linder, RPC Director. It did meet monthly and the Assistant Director attended these meetings regularly. While the majority of the membership comes from the campus, there are representatives from ABLE, PanOK, OHP, and Stillwater PD. This group met primarily in the Stillwater Public Library under Scott’s leadership. The group was reorganized to be more oriented to serving OSU, Stillwater, and Payne County.

Back On Track Program

The Assistant Director is currently available for consults relating to fraternity and sorority students for the staffing committee of a fully functioning Back On Track program here at Oklahoma State University. Both the Assistant Director and Coordinator attend graduation
ceremonies when they take place.

III. Staffing

The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs consists of the Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs, Ival Gregory; the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs, Ann Reightler, who joined the office on May 27, 2014; a half time graduate teaching assistant for MGC and NPHC, Darius Jones, who joined the staff on July 31, 2014 and left staff in June 2016; a half time graduate teaching assistant for fraternity and sorority programming, Millie Van Horn, who joined the office on June 15, 2015; a half time graduate teaching assistant for IFC, Abby Howard, who joined the staff on June 5, 2015; a halftime graduate teaching assistant for the Panhellenic Council, Kelsi Hildreth, who joined the staff on June 16, 2015 and left staff in August 2016; and Administrative Support Specialist, Melisa Echols, who joined the staff on January 16, 2008. (Melisa reports to both Fraternity & Sorority Affairs and the Center for Ethical Leadership until the new Campus Life organizational chart becomes effective.)

Darius Jones returns as the MGC & NPHC graduate teaching assistant and as the senior member of the assistants will work on special projects as defined by the Assistant Director and Coordinator. Darius also advised Junior Greek Life. Darius graduated in May 2016 from the College Student Development graduate program at OSU.

Millie Van Horn was hired as the Programming graduate teaching assistant comes to us from Oklahoma State University where she obtained her bachelor’s degree in Human Development & Family Science, Family Life Education. During her time there she was very involved in the Greek Community and on campus. She is currently in the School Counseling program at OSU. Millie also advised Order of Omega.

Abby Howard was hired as the IFC graduate teaching assistant. She comes to us from Eastern Illinois University where she obtained her bachelor’s degree in Sociology. During her time there she was very involved in the Greek community and on campus. She is currently in the College Student Development graduate program at OSU. Abby also advised Order of Omega.

Kelsi Hildreth was hired as the Panhellenic graduate teaching assistant on June 16, 2015. She comes to us from Oklahoma State University where she obtained her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. During her time she was very involved in the Greek community and on campus. Kelsi also advised Junior Greek Life. She was enrolled in the Human Development and Family Science graduate program at OSU and graduated in August 2016.

Ann Reightler became Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs on Tuesday, May 27, 2014. She continues to be involved with fraternity/sorority activities on the regional and national levels. Ann directly advises the Panhellenic and Multicultural Greek Councils.

Melisa continues to exhibit a sincere desire for knowledge of our office and the processes of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs and the Center for Ethical Leadership. Her membership in one of our sororities during her undergraduate program continues to be extremely helpful. Her enthusiasm and energy combined with her longing to serve the students are genuine assets to the office.
IV. Programs/Activities

Some of the regular activities of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs are:

- MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant met with each MGC/NPHC council officer individually for weekly meetings.
- MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant helped coordinate “Meet the Greeks” for both MGC and NPHC in the fall semester.
- The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs sponsored MGC and NPHC chapter pictures.
- All four governing councils participated in Pumpkin Pals.
- MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant present hazing seminars to organizations conducting membership intake during the fall/spring semester.
- Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs held the council officer retreat and chapter officers retreat in January 2016.
- Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs staff and council officers attended AFLV where we were recognized in multiple categories.
- MGC established study hours to increase organizations GPA’s that fell below the level required to remain active.
- MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant updated MGC/NPHC recruitment booklets for Greek Discovery Day.
- MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant worked closely with Christopher Paddock to establish a judicial board for NPHC and MGC.
- MGC planning “MGC Recruitment Week” for the upcoming fall semester.
- MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant created a MGC Intake Policy for organizations conducting intake.
- Continued regular Fraternity & Sorority Affairs staff meetings.
- House Corporation Presidents’ quarterly meetings continued to take place with the Assistant Director facilitating the meetings and Coordinator attending.
- Panhellenic Council Chapter Advisor meetings continued to take place monthly with the Coordinator leading the meetings.
- National Pan-Hellenic Council Graduate Advisor meetings resumed and took place twice per semester and on an as needed basis.
- Assistant Director and Coordinator attend House Directors’ meetings with support from several campus resources, including OSU Legal Counsel for example.
- Both professional staff members met with the appropriate traveling consultants for inter/national fraternities and sororities represented on the OSU campus.
- Met with, or conversed by telephone with, parents, faculty, etc. concerned about the wellbeing of their students in the fraternity and sorority community.
- Assistant Director met with upper administration and local governing officials on an as needed basis. This includes but is not limited to Dr. Bird, Gary Clark, Dan Galloway (City Manager), and Norman McNickle (Stillwater Director of Public Safety).
- Assistant Director attended Interfraternity Council and meetings National Pan-Hellenic Council meetings on a regular basis.
- Assistant Director and IFC Graduate Teaching Assistant met with the Interfraternity Council executive officers on a weekly basis.
• Coordinator attended Multicultural Greek Council meetings on a regular basis.
• Coordinator and MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant met with Multicultural Greek Council executive officers on a weekly.
• Assistant Director and MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant attended National Pan-Hellenic Council meetings on a regular basis.
• Assistant Director and MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant met with NPHC executive officers on a weekly basis.
• Coordinator attended Panhellenic Council meetings on a regular basis.
• Coordinator and Panhellenic Graduate Teaching Assistant met with the Panhellenic Executive Council officers on a weekly basis.
• Coordinator, Panhellenic Graduate Teaching Assistant and Panhellenic Executive Council officers met with the Panhellenic Council Presidents, Panhellenic Council Delegates, etc. individually and/or collectively outside of council meetings once per semester.
• Continued good working relations with Stillwater Police Department.
• Continued "Exit Interviews" with all young men who de-pledged a fraternity.
• Assistant Director had as needed meetings with Aleigha Mariott, Student Conduct Officer, to discuss discipline issues.
• Worked closely with Christopher Paddock, Student Conduct Graduate Research Assistants, to create Panhellenic, IFC, and MGC J-Board trainings each semester. Also, worked closely to investigate allegations of various violations by members of the fraternity/sorority community and recommended possible sanctions.
• Graduate Teaching Assistants, Abby Howard and Millie Van Horn, jointly advised Order of Omega. In total, 60 students were initiated into Order of Omega this year.
• Graduate Teaching Assistants, Kelsi Hildreth and Darius Jones, jointly advised Junior Greek Life advising a total of 50 students.
• Sent letters of congratulations to members of the fraternity/sorority community who received special recognition or awards. Throughout the academic year a total of twenty Top Ten Freshmen, eighteen Top Twenty Freshmen, twenty-eight Seniors of Significance, nine of ten Homecoming Royalty, forty-three fall 2015 initiates of Phi Kappa Phi, and eight Outstanding Seniors were Greek students. Ten New Student Orientation leaders were Greek students. Three Niblack Research Scholars and two Free Enterprise Society Scholarship recipients were also recognized as being outstanding within the Greek community. Eight Greek students were selected to be members of Phi Beta Kappa in the spring of 2016. During the spring 2016 semester forty-four Greek students were accepted into Phi Kappa Phi honor society.
• After being incorporated as a not-for-profit Oklahoma corporation on August 21, 2007, the Greek Neighborhood Association of Stillwater, OK, continues to evaluate projects which will benefit the health and safety of those who live in the fraternity and sorority houses at OSU. The Greek Neighborhood Association was able to partner with the City of Stillwater to provide 219 new decorative yet functional street lights in the "Neighborhood". These lights were fully installed and operational by the end of July 2014.
• Work continues on the Greek Centennial projects. The sundial has a location, in the center of the Formal Gardens and fundraising efforts are being revisited. The Sundial Committee, made up of Greek alumni, is excited to be working with Tylerr Ropp at the OSU Foundation. He has been very productive thus far.
Some of the activities of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs are during Fall Semester of 2015 were:

- Managed and coordinated an extremely successful women's formal recruitment at the onset of the fall semester. 920 participated in recruitment, which is an increase from the previous year. 771 were extended a bid.
- Conducted an evaluation of women's formal recruitment with the Executive Council, PNM's, parents, recruitment counselors, and chapter recruitment chairs.
- Facilitated the councils in their presentation of Kim Novak, one of the nation's foremost authorities on risk management, for the hazing seminar in the fall. For the second time, the presentation's material was expanded to include alcohol and sexual violence awareness in addition to hazing prevention. Over 1,000 students attended this event. Kim Novak reported back regarding the positivity of the students who reached out to her following the program.
- MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant continued to attend informational meetings put on by organization affiliated with Multicultural Greek Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council to educate potential members on Office, University, and State policies regarding hazing at Oklahoma State University.
- Presented one educational forum in the fall for the Panhellenic Association. The educational forum took the form of a retreat in September and covered topics such as working with advisors, ritual, values, and being an involved alumnae.
- Junior Greek Life continues to exceed all expectations while they act as ambassadors for Fraternity & Sorority Affairs. The exceptional freshmen who make up JGL are selected through an application/interview process and travel with Undergraduate Admissions in order to man browse tables here on campus to promote fraternity/sorority life at OSU.
- In the 2015-16 academic year, Junior Greek Life raised over $5,000 for the Scott Carter Heroes Foundation through a benefit concert, winter philanthropy, and basketball tournament.
- Panhellenic recruitment coordinators were selected in October 2015, and Panhellenic recruitment was planned throughout most of the spring semester. Fraternity & Sorority Coordinator, Ann Reightler and Panhellenic Graduate Teaching Assistant, Kelsi Hildreth, met weekly with the Recruitment Coordinators.
- Coordinator and Graduate Teaching Assistant assisted and advised the Recruitment Coordinators in the interviewing and selection of 81 recruitment counselors. They are known as Gamma Chis.
- The Coordinator, all GTAs met bi-monthly with public relations officers for each council to plan Greek Discovery Day.
- For the sixth year, Freshman Follies operated as an entity of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs. The event was held in the Student Union Theater October 28, 2015 – October 31, 2015. The advisory responsibilities for this project were split between the Assistant Director and the Programming Graduate Teaching Assistant.
- Assistant Director and the Programming Graduate Teaching Assistant met weekly with Follies Executives and Follies Steering.
• For the fourth time, a philanthropy project was included in the Freshman Follies production. The student leaders selected Hearts for Hearing to receive the proceeds from "Cheesing for Charity." The philanthropy project consisted of an additional evening performance (Wednesday night). Donation buckets were also passed around during intermission of the other performances. Following the show $17,500 was donated to Hearts for Hearing.

• IFC J-Board continued to gain stature in the community and heard a small number of violations this academic year.

• IFC Executives re-affirmed the office of IFC Recruitment Chairman. There will be one this summer and compensation will be adjusted accordingly.

• Coordinator and MGC/NPHC Graduate Teaching Assistant guided and encouraged the Multicultural Greek Council as they submitted all AFLV awards binders.

• Coordinator, Darius, Abby, and the Director for Leadership & Campus Life, John Mark Day, attended the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors Annual Meeting. This provided priceless networking opportunities, excellent ideas for growth and improvement of the OSU fraternity and sorority community and some insight into the future of the fraternal movement.

• Assistant Director, Coordinator, Darius, Kelsi, and Millie participated in Late Night Café during finals week where the Student Union serves pancakes to the campus community.

Some of the activities surrounding the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs during the Spring Semester of 2016 were:

• Council Officer Training occurred on Sunday January 10, 2016, which is a training session with officers of the Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Panhellenic Council. The agenda included goal setting building relationships between all four executive teams, the Four Agreements, etc.

• The Chapter Officer Retreat was held on January 19, 2016 in the Student Union Theater and various Student Union meeting rooms. The goal of this event is to work in collaboration with newly transitioned chapter officers to better acclimate them to their role within the fraternity and sorority community, office policies and procedures, risk management education, etc. Training sessions were held with chapter presidents, social chairs, recruitment chairs, intake officers, risk management chairs, secretaries, cultural programming officers, and philanthropy chairs of all chapters.

• Coordinator and Panhellenic Graduate Teaching Assistant planned and facilitated the Stillwater Alumnae Panhellenic Financial Meeting on January 30, 2016, 2015 at Chi Omega. Very productive conversations regarding finances in addition to the growth of the community and the recruitment booklet took place.

• IFC re-affirmed the recruitment registration process, including a $50 fee, for fraternity recruits.

• The Panhellenic Council re-affirmed the recruitment registration process as well as their dates and format. The fee for 2015 was set at $100.

• Reworked recruitment/intake marketing material in January and February; all councils' recruitment/intake booklets were available for Greek Discovery Day, April 2, 2016.

• Plans are set for the Panhellenic Council to again provide parents' emails as well as a Recruitment Notes booklet.
• Assistant Director and Programming Graduate Teaching Assistant met weekly with Varsity Revue Executives and Varsity Revue Steering.

• For the second time, Varsity Revue was under the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs. Varsity Revue took place on February 24, 2016 – February 27, 2016 in the Seretean Center. The student leaders selected the United Way of Stillwater as the philanthropy project. The philanthropy committee collected donations from local businesses, the proceeds from the Wednesday night show were donated to United Way, and money buckets were passed during intermission for every show, and money was raised through a silent auction. As a result, $28,000 was donated to the United Way of Stillwater from the Varsity Revue Steering Committee.

• IFC chapters completed Chapter Quality Achievement applications designed by the original Greek Life Task Force this year. This program provides a positive re-enforcement to fraternities to excel in several areas of the fraternal movement. Results are noted in the Fraternity Way.

• The Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Panhellenic Council continued to utilize their awards process, which is based on the AFLV Awards and Assessment process.

• Multicultural Greek Council started planning an event for fall 2016 that will showcase the campus community to diverse populations. NPHC is looking to collaborate with MGC for this fall event.

• The Association for Fraternal Leadership and Values Conference took place February 4-7, 2016. Assistant Director and Coordinator as well as Graduate Teaching Assistants accompanied IFC, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Panhellenic Council officers to Indianapolis, IN for this conference. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to see how other communities work. General sessions, breakout sessions, and informal time was spent learning from others and offering OSU practices to students and professionals from all over the country. An extremely valuable networking experience took place for both the professionals and the students. This conference provides opportunities to help select speakers for various programming opportunities on our campus. This was the tenth consecutive year leaders from both MGC and NPHC were able to attend AFLV. It was an extremely valuable experience for them. All councils were recognized for excellence this year.

• The Coordinator, all GTAs met weekly with public relations officers for each council to plan Greek Discovery Day.

• Greek Discovery Day, April 2, 2016, was another success in educating and entertaining prospective students and their parents. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs coordinated and advised student leaders in the production of this premier recruitment event. A general session, council specific breakout sessions, mock recruitment events, and chapter tours, combined with a session for the parents in attendance made this another very successful event. Attendance was just over 2,500 students and parents. The opening session was in Gallagher-Iba. President Burns Hargis welcomed our guests and John Mark Day talked with the parents.

• Greek Awards Reception was held on April 6, 2016. Order of Omega produced this event for the fifteenth year. Awards acknowledging Greek accomplishments, in several areas, were distributed. For the fifteenth year, outstanding faculty and staff in the eyes of the Greek community were recognized. Panhellenic GTA and NPHC & MGC GTA assisted in
the awards judging process.

- Assistant Director and Programming Graduate Teaching Assistant met weekly with Spring Sing Executives and Spring Sing Steering.
- Spring Sing took place on April 9, 2016 in Gallagher-Iba Arena. Coaches v. Cancer was the philanthropy project. The philanthropy committee collected donations from local businesses, and money buckets were passed during intermission for every show, and money was raised through a raffle. As a result, $23,100 was donated to Coaches v. Cancer. Nearly 3,000 general admission tickets were sold and 150 V.I.P. tickets were issued.
- The Coordinator and Panhellenic Graduate Teaching Assistant met weekly with recruitment counselors and with chapter recruitment chairmen.
- The timeline for Recruitment Counselor training and chapter chair training has been closely followed.
- The Recruitment Team represented OSU Panhellenic Council at the Tulsa, Edmond, Oklahoma City, Kay County, and Houston Alumnae Panhellenic Recruitment Events. Materials were sent to other alumnae groups in Oklahoma and Texas.
- The Coordinator and Panhellenic Graduate Teaching Assistant continued planning recruitment with the student leaders by arranging programming elements for all potential new members during fall recruitment, including, values alignment.
- IFC member chapters signed the Dry Recruitment Agreement for the seventeenth consecutive year. Emphasis will once again be placed on the enforcement of the "spirit" of the policy as well as the "letter" of the policy. The Assistant Director has announced on several occasions that, quite simply, if a recruit, a member, and alcohol are present at the same time, then a violation occurs, regardless of the circumstances.
- Dialogue continued with NIC inter/national fraternities who have expressed interest in coming to Oklahoma State University. Several fraternities continue to express a desire to come to Oklahoma State University. Fraternities on the expansion calendar include: Delta Upsilon, beyond fall 2016; and, Acacia, currently in negotiations.
- Coordinator and Millie participated in assisting with Late Night Cafe during finals week. Late Night Cafe provides pancakes to the campus community that may be up studying for final examinations.

While the above mentioned activities do not represent all of the activities of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs during the 2015-2016 academic year, they are representative of the Office's day to day procedures and projects.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of October 2016,
Jval Gregory, Assistant Director
Fraternity & Sorority Affairs

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Darius Jones, GTA NPHC & MGC
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