Dear Alumni,

I write today in response to several communications we have received from members of our Greek alumni community about the work the Student Life Task Force is conducting. The work of this important task force is intended to examine how UI can best support our first-year students in their transition to campus. As you are likely aware, the bulk of a new student’s time is not spent in the classroom, which makes the quality of the environment in which our students live, work and study critical to their success.

There appears to be significant concern that we have already taken action to change current practices specific to housing first year students in Greek chapter houses. I can assure you that we have not made any decision to change our current practices. Rather, as part of examining all aspects of student life, the task force has been asked to explore our first year residence life experience, including how we recruit students to join the Greek system.

The task force is very much in the information-gathering stage now, which includes holding focus group meetings, conducting an on-line survey of our first and second year students, reviewing various national practices and learning more about the impact that Greek or residence hall life has on students. Once they have completed their analysis, the task force will simply provide me with a summary and recommendations to improve student life for all students. I expect to have the task force’s report in the spring.

I value the strength of support, contributions and dedication of our Greek alumni. Neither I nor the Student Life Task Force intend anything that would undermine that strength. Our objectives are to strengthen and improve the first year experience for all of our students including the important part that is the Greek system.

I look forward to continued collaboration and discussion with our Greek alumni on this issue as we go forward. Thank you for your interest and your support of the University.

Chuck Staben, Ph.D.
President

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