Meeting summary

I. Introductions:
   A. Members (present and via phone)

   Attending Meeting in person: Erin Agidius, Blaine Eckles, Marilyn Fordham, Dee Dee Kanikkeberg, Jean Kim, Caleb Quates, Dick Reilly, and Kent Nelson

   Attended Meeting by Calling In: Dan Alsaker, Sandy Fery, Laird Stone, and Frances Ellsworth

   Not Able to Participate: David Pfeiffer and Martin Trail

   B. Jean Kim, as the chair, clarified the charge to the SLTF:

       Explore the impact of how we recruit first year students to join the Greek system and housing them in Greek chapter houses, and how the current practice impacts their overall transition to the university.

       If we recommend changes to the current practices, the SL Task force is also charged to come up with suggestions on how to implement the changes that will ensure continued positive presence of Greek organizations on campus and improve student life for all students.

   C. Meetings and work processes

       1. Given our charge, we decided that we need to hear from the following groups/people:

           - Greek presidents council (focus group)
           - IFC (focus group)
           - PHC (focus group)
           - Chapter corporation officers (focus group)
           - ASUI senators (focus group)
           - RHA (focus group)
           - Chapter advisors (focus group)
           - House directors (focus group)
           - National and international S & F organizations (survey)
           - First year and Sophomore students (survey)
           - Vandal Alumni (survey)
For conducting focus group meetings, where possible, will team up the current university people on the task force with a Greek alum member on the task force. On the survey, given the short turn around required, Jean will draft a set of questions and run it by the task force via email before the October meeting.

2. We will communicate our work in progress through periodic updates from the chair to the interested groups and hold a few open forums.

II. University context:
A. Jean shared the updates on the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan and where the work of this task force is placed (Objective B. Improve Retention of undergraduate students, Strategy #2 Explore and implement programs designed to improve first year retention).

B. Deedee overviewed Residence Hall information e.g., occupancy by building and by class, capacity, first year programs, staffing, costs for room & board. Also noted that the university has committed $4.2 Million to refurbish the 12 remaining floors in the Wallace Complex to be done during the summer of 2016 for Fall 2016 occupancy.

C. Sororities and Fraternities – all chapters on memberships & in house; Initial set of membership numbers was discussed. We noted there maybe too many fraternities for the size of the undergraduate population at the U of I. We will have more complete information by the next meeting including the membership breakdown by class.

D. Chapters with houses: on occupancy, capacity, first year student programs, staffing, costs of membership, room & board—This information was not complete to share at this meeting but will be available by the October meeting.

E. Blaine shared the 2015 outcomes of Greek recruitment and fall outs. Sororities had about the same # of participants as in 2014, fraternities had fewer students participate in recruitment but experienced higher % in bids being offered and accepted. His office will check on the Fall recruitment pledge #s at the end of the semester (to compare how many students were recruited vs. how many were initiated) and have this data broken down by Chapter.

F. Jean gave an update on the Steel House, women’s coop, which is considered to be on-campus housing option although independently operated. They are working on building a new structure for potential occupancy for fall 2017, are working closely with the Housing and Residence Life on training of their RA who also participates in the res Life staff meetings. They are also working on changing their recruitment of new members to focus on continuing students, sophomores and juniors who may appreciate coop living more.

III. External comparisons:
A. Recruitment practices
B. First year Housing practices
   Blaine shared the information collected from universities from around the country including those suggested by the Greek alumni group to the president, and universities in the WUE (Western University Exchange) states on these two categories. With the exception of Oregon and Washington, the majority of universities conduct recruitment after classes start
in the fall and do not house first year students in the Greek chapter houses.

His office will work on getting additional information from the other universities on --- Any fraternities or sororities that reside in Res Halls? The number and % of students involved with Greek Life at each institution, More specific info on dates of recruitment during the semesters (i.e.—when does the period start/end) and Include Idaho State University in the document.

IV. Information needed:
A. U of I Retention by class & by residency which should be ready by our November meeting from the IRA Office.
B. Student Conduct & behavioral complaints broken down by residency
C. Information from AFA Association and Indiana University’s Center for study of college Fraternities and other research resources that Marilyn Fordham identified
D. Understanding university financing (Jean will invite Brian Foisy, the new VP for Finance, to one of our meetings on this topic)
E. Gather data on the types of programs/events the Greeks do. We will have this broken down by chapter and it will entail gathering info on the # of volunteer hours, # of $$ raised, # and type of educational programs, # $ type of social programs
F. We will start gathering data on recruitment that occurs OUTSIDE of the standard Fall recruitment time frame (i.e.—what #s are chapters bringing in during on-going recruitment efforts)
G. Information from the national offices on recruitment cycles used and strengths of each
H. U of I’s donor history and foundation contributions including UI Vandal scholarship fund by alumni groups
I. Hunting Ground as a general point of reference (Blaine has already sent the link to this film) and he will send a link to the “Think About It” program that all first year students are required to take on-line.

V. Future meetings:

There was a request to reconsider the future meeting times since meeting times on Saturday posed challenges especially for the Greek alums coming from the Boise area. We agreed to move the December meeting to Tuesday 12/8, 2-6 pm to be held in Boise (Sandy agreed to work on securing a meeting location). We’ll double check on the Nov. 14th date to ensure that it does not interfere with other Leadership Weekend activities. Robin will send out a doodle to reschedule October meeting to a weekday late afternoon shortly. We decided to hold off changing the spring semester meetings until we get further in our work.