Student Life Task Force Meeting 2  
Monday, October 19, 2015  
4:00—7:00pm  
Administration Building 207

Meeting summary

Attending Meeting in person: Erin Agidius, Blaine Eckles, Jean Kim, McKenzie MacDonald, Kent Nelson, David Pfeiffer, and Robin Shoemaker

Attended Meeting by Calling In: Dan Alsaker, Dick Reilly

Attended Meeting via Videoconference from Boise: Frances Ellsworth, Sandy Fery, and Marilyn Fordham

Not Able to Participate: Dee Dee Kannikeberg, Caleb Quates, Laird Stone, and Martin Trail

1. Data collection in process:
   a. The survey of first and second year students has gone out, with survey reminders being sent out on Tuesday’s. We will have the results by the December meeting.
   b. Gathering information on student conduct and behavioral complaints by residency is in progress and should be put together by the December meeting.
   c. The Greek programming by chapter is also in process and should be completed by the November meeting. One suggestion was to contact National Headquarters as they would have an idea of what programming the chapters should be doing.

2. Discussion on information gathered:
   a. The question was asked as to what recruitment numbers look like outside of formal recruitment. The chapters are not consistently involved in informal recruitment. A discussion on meeting quota ensued. Once sororities meet quota, they do not engage in further recruitment. Typically, chapters lose members spring semester due to graduation, so it would be in their best interest to practice informal recruitment to make up membership numbers. The question was asked why chapters don’t want to go over quota. Basically, it is a strategy to keep the numbers among chapters as equal as possible so that one chapter doesn’t have 150 members and another chapter only has 40.

   b. Chapters with houses:
      i. **Occupancy:** what numbers are we allowed to recruit per Panhellenic Bylaws? What are the total numbers vs. quota? The Panhellenic total for this year is 93 per chapter. It was suggested to add a column for ‘Total Chapter Allowed on the ‘Greek House Capacity and Membership’
spreadsheet. Dan Alsaker mentioned that for fraternities there is no limit on numbers other than the physical structure of the house.

ii. **Room and Board/Membership Costs**: Kent Nelson suggested adding a column on the spreadsheet that compares the costs of living in residence halls vs. chapter houses. We also need the costs for weekend meals, dues, pledge fees, initiation fees, and annual dues. What are the chapter’s operational costs? Fixed costs have to be met, and when there are significant capital improvements, the cost per member increases. It was also noticed in some chapters there is a gap between capacity and the number of live-ins, which could mean the chapter’s live-out policy is too lax.

iii. **Recruitment discussion**: There was a more structured IFC recruitment this fall, which resulted in a 98% placement rate. Fraternities can recruit all summer, but sororities cannot. Panhellenic can put on general recruitment events, but individual sororities cannot. Blaine Eckles shared that he knows of a fraternity member who recruited all summer and only got four conversions. It would be good to get conversion data from the students. Their efforts during the summer may not be resulting in the numbers hoped. There was discussion on the 60-day gap between Vandal Friday and formal recruitment and its negative impact on recruitment. It was suggested that the Greek Life Office should ask the national organizations and local alums of the ‘Needs Improvement’ chapters to come to Moscow for recruitment. Several members agreed it would be good to engage the national organizations in a way we haven’t in the past.

c. **Other university Greek practices**: It was reported that most universities do their recruitment when classes start or early in the Fall semester. Sandy Fery has a pro-con list from her nationals. Marilyn Fordham mentioned that each university is different, and recruitment for us should be what works for the University of Idaho.

d. **(D-F on Agenda)** Articles were previously sent to the task force members on Recruitment Best Practices; National Colonization; Educational and Retention benefits of Residence Hall living; and the Effects of Fraternity and Sorority Membership.

e. **(G on the Agenda)** Gallup Research: Behind the research is an article that Jean Kim will email to the group. Overview: Greek people appear to be doing better in their personal and professional lives. Marilyn Fordham shared that this article corroborates another study that was done 15 years ago by the University of Missouri.
f. (On the Agenda) Greek Affiliation for UI Leadership: This is the list of UI alums who are (were) also UI Foundation Directors, Hall of Fame Honorees, and ASUI Presidents, who are also affiliated with a Greek organization. The UI representation aligns well with the national representation and speaks to the leadership and philanthropic components of Greek Life in general.

3. Focus Groups & Remaining Surveys:
   a. Interview Questions: Are we asking the right questions? Keep the questions limited and the meetings with the focus groups to 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Use one set of questions for all groups. The goal is how do we improve the overall student experience and how do we become attractive to students who want different experiences, not Housing vs. Greek. The committee will review the questions and offer suggestions by the end of the week.
   b. Focus groups were assigned to task force members. Jean Kim will send an email with the assignments. Make sure to include non-Greek alumni who lived in Steel House, on-campus apartments, and residence halls.
   c. Marilyn Fordham will create different questions for the survey of national and international sorority and fraternity organizations. Questions will address programming, philanthropy, academic issues, and social issues.
   d. Survey of Vandal alums: We will explore how to survey alumni groups with similar questions as the focus groups.

4. Other items
   a. November meeting will be Wednesday, November 11. We will adjust the start time to 3:00 (Pacific Standard Time). Robin Shoemaker will investigate technology options so that all parties can be heard.