I. Welcome - Dr. Robert Griffin

Dean Griffin briefly welcomed members and explained the Zoom platform.

II. Roadmap for the Commission - Dr. Robert Griffin

Dean Griffin and Dr. Feuer explained there were lingering recommendations on the list of recommendations developed in Fall 2019 that still need to be discussion by the Commission and the goal of the meeting was to finish discussing all of these recommendations.

III. Developing Recommendations - Dr. Robert Griffin

The first topic area discussed were high-risk areas including the Pine Hills neighborhood, alcohol and other drug use, and sexual violence:
• **Pine Hills neighborhood** – An idea of increasing the presence of the University in the Pine Hills neighborhood was discussed, including potentially adding a building in the area. Many members liked this idea, but mentioned the need for extended hours (open until 5:00am or so on the weekends). In addition, ideas about joint walks with UAlbany staff and the Albany Police Department, involving graduate students, partnering with Alumni Quad, education and communication in terms students understand and can related to, working with the Student Association, and increased large social programming downtown were brought up. The importance of pairing communication, presence, and education with enforcement was also mentioned.

• **Alcohol and other drug use** – To reduce alcohol and other drug use, Commission members discussed the need for more clear expectations for fraternities/sororities, including responsible party coaching, accountability for organizations, renters, and landlords, but also the need for other event options, including partnering with alumni who have businesses or ideas for late-night events that would be of interest to our students. In addition, working with the Center for Behavioral Health on initiatives such as Greek STEPS and the role of sober monitors during events was discussed. The implications of insurance and inter/national organization specific policies were also discussed in terms of these potential interventions.

• **Sexual violence** – To reduce sexual violence, Commission members brought up ideas including mandated Title IX training for all fraternity/sorority members (an initiative being implemented by Fraternity & Sorority Life starting this semester), LGBTQ+ competency training, volunteer opportunities that allow members to see the impact of sexual violence, requiring fraternities/sororities to integrate (and inter/national organization policies and court rulings against this), and working with experts in the field on new programs and initiatives targeted to the fraternity/sorority community.

Another topic area discussed in the meeting was the integration of fraternities and sororities on campus including recruitment of new chapters and cost of membership. Within this topic, the overarching theme of avoiding the deficit perspective lens when talking about fraternities/sororities was recognized by many members.

• **Recruitment of chapters** – The idea of growing the fraternity/sorority community by adding more chapters that align with the mission/vision of the institution and the Office of Fraternity/Sorority Life, especially in the areas of diversity and inclusion was discussed. To recruit national organizations that have more open membership policies and inclusivity, members discussed investing in sending more representatives to the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors annual meeting and hosting an event for current and interested organizations. A Commission member also reminded the group of the need to maintain the organizations currently on campus and avoiding spreading office resources too thin.
• **Cost of membership**  – To address high costs associated with inter/national organizations, ideas including making costs more readily available to students, and working with development and alumni to create scholarships were discussed.

The last topic area discussed were policies and processes related to fraternities/sororities including a student organization conduct process, the hazing investigation process, and advising model/roles:

• **Student organization conduct process**  – The idea of having a student organization conduct process for all student organizations, including fraternities and sororities was discussed in an effort to enhance accountability and upholding due process for all student organizations.

• **Hazing investigation process**  – Members discussed the need for more trained staff, structure for organizations going through the process, a process timeline with a maximum amount of time for the process, and working with inter/national organizations in relation to the hazing investigation process managed by the Office of Community Standards.

• **Advising models and roles**  – In an effort to increase the presence and role of faculty/staff advisors for fraternities/sororities, ideas including having formal job descriptions and incentives for advisors were discussed. Other ideas to increase faculty/staff participation were discussed including incorporating fraternity/sorority issues (especially hazing) into the curriculum and providing faculty/staff with small statements about fraternities/sororities to incorporate in the classroom. Further, adding more staffing for fraternity/sorority life including creative approaches to allow for a designated staff person for each council was mentioned.

IV.  **Wrap Up and Next Steps** - Dr. Robert Griffin

Dean Griffin explained that Dr. Feuer will begin adding the recommendations discussed during the meeting to the draft report and will send a copy of the draft to Commission members in approximately two weeks. After the draft is distributed, Commission members will have two weeks to make comments/edits to the report and then the group will meet for a final time using Zoom to approve the report. After that meeting, members will have up to two weeks to write any dissenting opinions they would like represented in the report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

*There was not a chance for these meeting minutes to be formally approved by the Commission.*