Commission on the Future of Greek Life
September 4, 2019 | 7:00pm – 9:00pm | Campus Center Assembly Hall

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Adams, Kaweeda; Alvarez-Peña, Arleny; Apgar, Travis; Baldwin, Jenn; Bunson, Julie; Catalano, Alexandra; Chan, Teresa; Cray, Fiona; D’Allaird, Courtney; Dosono, Bryan; Ertl, Melissa; Golby, Leah; Griffin, Robert; Hawley, Brian; Jones, Lani; Khatib, Sari; Martin, Kyle; Miller, Paul; Minor, Tamra; Miranda, Monica; Nuñez, Ariel; Smart, Billy; Stevens, Sheri; Urena, Moises

Guests of the Chair Present: Alexander, Pamela; Carleo-Evangelist, Jordan; Feuer, Emily; Jaromin, Michael; Lauricella, Nancy; Puzio, Elise; Wrona, Dan

The meeting convened at 7:05pm.

I. Commission Charge - Dr. Michael N. Christakis

Vice President Christakis spoke about many contributions and benefits of fraternities and sororities at UAlbany and the increase in destructive behaviors of fraternity and sorority members last year and the beginning of this semester. Vice President Christakis discussed interventions that have been implemented in the recent past and posed the following central question for the Commission to address: Is it within our capacity at UAlbany to address the destructive behaviors too often associated with the culture of Greek life? Vice President Christakis answered a question about why there has been a shift from trying to grow fraternity/sorority membership to a focus on if the University can continue to offer a fraternity/sorority experience.

II. Introductions

All Commission members and guests introduced themselves and explained their interest in the work of the Commission.
III. **Overview and Expectations** - Dr. Robert Griffin

Dean Griffin spoke about logistics related to the Commission including the schedule and nature of meetings, the logic behind the size of the Commission, and the nature of the final report to be completed by the Commission. Dean Griffin highlighted the ability of members to write letters of concurrence and/or dissent to be included with the final report. Dean Griffin also mentioned the importance of developing recommendations focused on UAlbany’s unique context. Dean Griffin reminded members that they are representing more than themselves in the work of the Commission and it is their responsibility to talk with their respective constituents.

During this time, Dean Griffin answered questions about clarifying his sentiment about ensuring voices do not get lost during the process and about opportunities for public participation in the Commission process. Dean Griffin spoke on the closed nature of working groups and discussed the October 16 public forum.

IV. **National Fraternity/Sorority Landscape** - Dan Wrona

Mr. Dan Wrona gave a presentation titled “Understanding Fraternity and Sorority.” Topics of the nationally focused presentation include the purposes of fraternities/sororities, the typical governance structures of inter/national fraternal organizations and umbrella organizations, membership in these organizations, examples of other college/university relationships with fraternities/sororities, and issues and concerns related to fraternity/sorority regulation.

During a question/answer period, Mr. Wrona answered questions about the types of issues the Commission may way to be considering and about fraternity/sorority scorecards.

V. **UAlbany Fraternity/Sorority Landscape** - Michael Jaromin

Mr. Michael Jaromin gave a presentation titled “Greek Life At UAlbany: A Brief Look Through Time.” Topics of the UAlbany focused presentation include a history of fraternities and sororities at UAlbany dating back to 1890, current trends related to fraternities/sororities, and successes and areas of concern for fraternities and sororities.

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

Dean Griffin concluded the meeting with announcements about the next meeting (September 18) and logistical updates provided by Dr. Emily Feuer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.