Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alvarez-Peña, Arleny; Catalano, Alexandra; Chan, Teresa; D’Allaird, Courtney; Dosono, Bryan; Ertl, Melissa; Golby, Leah; Griffin, Robert; Hawley, Brian; Jones, Lani; Khatib, Sari; Mendez, Cameron; Miller, Paul; Minor, Tamra; Miranda, Monica; Nuñez, Ariel; Stevens, Sheri; Urena, Moises

Guests of the Chair Present: Alexander, Pamela; Chin-Carty, Desann; Chung, Erik; Collins, Jonathan; Collins, Justin; Feuer, Emily; Jaromin, Michael; King, D. Ekow; Lauricella, Nancy; Serravillo, Lee

The meeting convened at 7:03pm.

I. Welcome - Dr. Robert Griffin

Dean Griffin welcomed members, panelists, and guests. He also introduced a new Commission member, Cameron Mendez and gave an opportunity to Mr. Mendez to provide a brief introduction. Dean Griffin reminded members of the Open Forum on October 16 in the Campus Center Auditorium and let members know the Open Forum would start promptly at 7:00pm.

II. Approval of Minutes of September 18, 2019 - Dr. Robert Griffin

The minutes were approved with no members in opposition.

III. Thinking Ahead - Dr. Emily Feuer

Dr. Feuer reminded members about the central question the Commission is looking to answer, the focus of the last meeting, and the focus for the current meeting. Dr. Feuer also spoke about the Commission’s timeline for the rest of October.
IV. **Panel Presentations** - Why do we have fraternities/sororities at UAlbany?

- **Student Activities**: Pamela Alexander

  Ms. Alexander spoke about the role of student activities/involvement on college campuses and the mission/vision of the Office of Student Activities at UAlbany. She provided data showcasing student outcomes and perceptions for those involved in general student organizations and fraternities/sororities at UAlbany.

- **All Greek Council**: Teresa Chan (Lead), Erik Chung, Jonathan Collins, Justin Collins, Moises Urena

  Ms. Chan discussed priorities of the All Greek Council and the new structure of the Council. Mr. Chung, Mr. Urena, and Mr. Collins spoke about their positions within the All Greek Council. Ms. Chan also discussed how the Council is focused on setting a positive example for newer organizations to the Council and the long-lasting nature of fraternity/sorority membership.

- **Intercultural Student Engagement**: D. Ekow King

  Mr. King provided an overview of the Office of Intercultural Student Engagement and how fraternities and sororities, especially but not limited to culturally-based organizations, align with specific aspects of the mission and vision of the office.

- **Student Association**: Desann ‘Dee’ Chin-Carty

  Ms. Chin-Carty shared information on leadership roles fraternity/sorority members have had and currently have at UAlbany. Ms. Chin-Carty also provided results of a survey she conducted with fraternity/sorority members on the impact of fraternity/sorority membership on skill building, values, and general development.

- **Alumni Association**: Lee Serravillo

  Mr. Serravillo discussed the Alumni Association’s role in sponsoring social activities leading to alumni engagement and philanthropy. He also discussed how affinity based engagement, including fraternity/sorority affiliation, generally leads to stronger affinity with the University. Mr. Serravillo mentioned examples of past partnerships the Alumni Association has had with fraternities/sororities.

- **Umbrella/Regional and Inter/National Organizations**: Monica Miranda (Lead), Julie Bunson, Dr. Bryan Dosono, Kyle Martin

  Ms. Miranda informed the group about the different fraternal umbrella organizations and how fraternity/sorority goals align with UAlbany’s mission, vision, values, and priorities. Ms. Miranda also discussed how a lack of
recognition for fraternities/sororities would impact UAlbany and explained different aspects related to fraternity/sorority recognition. Lastly, Ms. Miranda spoke about the behaviors associated with a successful and effective culture within Greek life at UAlbany.

V. Panel Question and Answer Period

Members asked questions about retention rates for fraternity/sorority members, if panelists believe outcomes related to fraternity/sorority membership may be attainable in other types of student organizations, if panelists believe the fraternity/sorority community can hold each other accountable to create necessary behavior change, how to reconcile the positive aspects of fraternities and sororities with the negative behavior, and how things could be different in the future. Additional topics including the monetary aspect of fraternity/sorority behavior and the systemic nature of some behaviors associated with fraternities/sororities having a wider reach in the general community were also brought up.

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

Dean Griffin reminded all members about the Open Forum on October 16. Dr. Feuer made an announcement that some members will need to add additional items to their HR forms. She will reach out to those who may be impacted.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.