

Memo

TO: Mr. John Michalenko, Chief Student Life Officer and Dean of Students

FROM: Ms. Laura Green Schoenfeld, Assistant Director of Student Life

CC: Ms. Maureen Keefer, Assistant Dean of Students

DATE: May 12, 2008

RE: Summary Report-Council for the Assessment of Standards Review of the Greek Affairs Program

In order to examine the Greek Affairs program within Student Life, a committee was formed to complete the Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) Review for Fraternity and Sorority Advising Program. The committee met on March 14, 2008, to respond to all thirteen sections of the CAS workbook pertaining to Greek Affairs. A summary of the committee's findings is below. A copy of the completed CAS workbook containing the committee's answers to individual questions and completed worksheets is included.

The committee was comprised of Dr. Len Asimow, RMU Faculty, Mr. Lenny Chan, Carnegie Mellon University Coordinator for Greek Affairs, Mr. Paul Spradley, RMU Staff, and Ms. Amy Etzel, RMU Student and member of Delta Zeta Sorority. The committee was led by Ms. Maureen Keefer, Assistant Dean of Students, Ms. Amanda Ries, Area Coordinator and myself, Ms. Laura Green Schoenfeld, Assistant Director of Student Life.

Assessment Summary

Overall, the committee determined the Greek Affairs program was meeting or exceeding the standards in 11 of the 13 sections. Of the ten sections receiving high marks, only three recommendations were given to improve the program in the sections of Leadership, Organization & Management and Facilities, Technology & Equipment. The three recommendations are

- Annually assess the student leadership of the Greek Affairs program.
- Continue to advocate for better facilities in master plan meetings and focus groups for our Greek organizations.
- New facilities housing Greek organizations should accommodate students with disabilities.

The committee wanted to note that the current state of the facilities should not reflect negatively on the Greek Affairs program directly. The lack of modern facilities and adequate space is a campus-wide issue.

There were two sections of the CAS workbook where the committee focused their recommendations for the most change: Mission and Programs. In order to meet or exceed the standards in these two sections, the committee made the following recommendations:

- Create a separate mission statement for Greek Affairs that compliments the mission statements of Student Life and Robert Morris University.
- Identify desired learning outcomes for students that reflect the mission statement.
- Include more educational programming for Greek students including topics such as time management, conflict management, career choices, translating Greek experiences the work environment.
- Regularly assess whether the educational programs offered are delivering the desired outcomes.

The lack of a mission statement led to some poor scores in the first section. The committee saw many programmatic elements designed to foster leadership skills, student involvement, a dedication to community service, and responsible membership all which contribute to an implied mission. However, a defined mission statement would give a clearer road map of desired outcomes for the Greek Affairs program.

The second section focused on programs offered through the Greek Affairs program. The scores in this section varied as the committee felt the current programs met some standards, but some educational topics were not covered at all. The current programs addressing leadership development, healthy behavior, collaboration, social responsibility and meaningful interpersonal relationships were identified as meeting or exceeding standards. However, the committee believed there could be more of a curriculum by keeping the successful programs and introducing programs on topics such as choosing a career, translating their Greek experiences into the work environment for the Career Fair, clarifying values, spiritual awareness and intellectual growth.

Lastly, while not specifically mentioned in the CAS, the committee noticed the Panhellenic Constitution contained a non-hazing clause and the Interfraternity Council did not. The committee recommended the Interfraternity Council adding the University hazing policy to their constitution.

In my opinion, the committee did a good job in pointing out a direction for the Greek Affairs program to move in the upcoming years. While drawing up a mission statement can be accomplished relatively quickly, it may take longer to organize and implement all the aspects of a solid programming curriculum for the Greek community.

If you wish to discuss any of the outcomes of the CAS Review further, I am happy to do so.