

Proposal for President Dimenna and VP Nagy

Greek Senate

August 2018

1. Personal, chapter and system accountability.

Where we have been:

To say that Greek Senate has failed to promote accountability in the Greek system is not something many want to admit. Rather, the struggles with accountability come from the history of the councils in the past year(s). After a ring of suspensions and falling out within the councils, many persons in positions of leadership were forced to step down. This then left a hole, a hole in which was struggled to be filled by different affiliated students in order to have them work effectively. Councils still find themselves in this hole while organizations have been either suspended or have fallen out of good standing, removing those within the chapters from elected positions. While they struggle with this problem the community can only hope for a new group of students to step up and take positions.

Where we want to be:

In order to promote accountability within the Fraternity and Sorority community at the University, it is fundamental to create strong institutions in which govern the organizations respectively. These are and have been the IFC, Panhellenic Council and the MPGC - answering respectively to Greek Senate. While these groups are not going to be changed, they can be strengthened. There has been a destitution in the formality of the meetings and purpose they have. With newly elected executive boards guided more closely with the judicial operation and the school more chapter accountability can be introduced to the respective organizations.

1. Create a system in which infractions - of varied significance - can be judged by fellow Greeks. This system could be used by chapters to discuss and resolve

matters that exist in the greater greek community at Monmouth. If an organization felt as if another was operating out of bounds, they would be able to voice concerns with other organizations to find a solution. The operation of this would handle much like an organization's Standards/Honor boards, but at a University level for all organization across all councils.

2. A clear understanding of and commitment to their values of brother and sisterhood.

Where we have been:

To hold the councils accountable to the value of each organization is extremely difficult at the moment with the intense diversity of organizations and their volatility. Lately there has not been the means to do this, as each chapter was held accountable on its own. Moving forward a system much like the ones mentioned before must be made. It has never been the council's place to actively get involved with values and such of chapters, as it is something we trust each to uphold.

Where we want to be:

Another benefit of implementing the standards system would be organizations could effectively call their own members to be reviewed. Furthermore, if and when the system would be put in place, it would be crucial to require each organization to create and maintain their own standards board within their respective groups. This means that issues that relate directly to the

mission and values of the organization can be addressed internationally, before needing to be brought to the attention of the expanded Greek community.

The standards board is crucial in managing larger chapters all whilst keeping true to the values they want to promote. With a system of accountability that stems through the Senate and Councils into the chapter it would create something in which all organization have in common. This being said, the goal of promoting values would become something that ties them together closer with the monmouth greek community.

3. Adherence to their National Risk Management Guidelines as well as the expectations of the University and a plan in place to address those within the system that do not, cannot or will not adhere to these rules.

Where we have been:

It is a fact not an opinion that issues usually stem from the same organizations. Some would say it's unfair to address such organizations as that, but with a rap sheet of constant failures and mismanagement there is obviously a pattern that is being followed. There are organizations on campus that do follow their guidelines very seriously and there are also organizations that do not. It is up to the respective chapters to decide which side they will be on and in the past there has been nothing the school has done or can do about that. Moving forward this does not mean to pacify chapters or strengthen the guidelines more is it to label those who do follow it differently than those who do not.

Where we want to be:

The Greek Senate should have knowledge to some degree of every organization's risk management policies. Risk management policies are not limited to social events and encompass events such as a chapter member failing to meet grade point average. Every chapter should review the risk management guidelines of their organization as well as the expectations of the University at the beginning of every semester. Additionally, new members should also be informed of these guidelines and policies. Those within the system that do not, cannot or will not adhere to these rules will be disciplined based on the severity of the situation.

While we should be trusting organizations to adhere to their National guidelines and the school's guidelines, it is beneficial to also create a group monitored by the council's that does the same thing. If one were to organize an open up a line of communication between all risk management chairs, the communication would help significantly. With more communication chapters could share ideas and methods that could be beneficial for the entire community.

Ideally the social morals of each chapter should be in line with that of the school. The goal is to promote prosperity and safety. The goal of the risk manager is to keep the chapter in their guidelines, and working together unified through the school their word will carry more weight internally.

4. Greater emphasis on hazing education and a statement of zero tolerance. Education on hazing to involve all members of the organization not just new members and those responsible for the new member education process.

Where we have been:

Hazing prevention week has always been the University's main tool in promoting the guidelines of zero tolerance. Working alongside the office of student life and activities, fraternities and sororities have been held to the standard of educating its members on the dangers of hazing. What has been done in the past is educating students as a general population all at once. This means that during the allocated time for hazing prevention both affiliated and non-affiliated students would be taught the dangers of hazing as well as the school's policy. The reason this is not effective is because students who are taught about hazing have not yet decided if they will be joining an organization. For them to receive information about the dangers of hazing does not yet metaphorically “click” with them because they have no idea what an organization is actually about let alone those in Greek Life.

Where we want to be:

Hazing prevention week should take place either immediately following recruitment, or during the six week educational period. This could be done either with extending it to 7 weeks with the hazing prevention being the first week or it within the six. The purpose of moving hazing prevention week to a later date would be to better influence new members about the issues of hazing. During the post rush phase is a more relevant time to discuss hazing prevention. When done before this time, or the recruitment process in general many students are not yet committed to greek life or informed on the topic to be educated.

1. Move hazing prevention week/create a week dedicated to hazing prevention during a more relevant time in the recruitment/educational process. In order to create more of an

impact on students the information about hazing should be done after they are exposed to Greek life more.

5. Recruitment revisions.

Where we have been:

We have been extremely thorough with all recruitment guidelines for every single organization on campus. All on campus organizations adhere to the recruitment guidelines as best as they can. What is an issue for our campus specifically is that there are still prominent off-campus organizations that hurt the recruitment for on-campus organizations. Off campus groups still are able to promote their respective organizations through off campus events and on-campus ones alike. Even something as insignificant as wearing letters is able to build name brand recognition and help promote the organization as a whole, this also goes hand in hand with having something like a rock that was failed to be removed during the time of a suspension - as potential students would see this on a tour. The school should move towards securing the off-campus presence in order to strengthen the on-campus one.

Where we want to be:

We believe the recruitment system in place is as updated as it could possible be. All chapters are held to incredibly high standards with their respective councils. The formality of the MPGC and Panhellenic organization does not allow for individuals to bypass the recruitment

process without being extremely well versed on the expectation of the organizations and University. This same etiquette is followed with the IFC, as organization must adhere to strict guidelines and deadlines in the recruitment process. It is to our knowledge that infractions with Greek Life have not historically taken place during the recruitment process.

Nonetheless, there are issues with the topic of recruitment on campus. These problems however do not come from the organization that are currently bound to adhere to the guidelines of the council's - the controversy stems from organizations that are no longer or are not recognized on the University. Without guidelines or subsequent rules off campus organizations have no filtration or guidance to the recruitment process. In order to continuously recruit without University recognition, these groups require word of mouth, social marketing and organization specific attire. The current off campus presence has greatly affected the IFC and has created stress on the recruitment process as it forces on campus organizations to compete against the freedom of the unrecognized recruitment process.

1. The best way to promote on campus organizations with recruitment is to allow them to recruit together in an environment that no other organization could possibly match. Something where each unified group could recruit through the school either on campus or off-campus would take away the stress of competing against off-campus organizations. Rather than clamping down on those on campus, promoting their organization would help them grow - under the supervision of the school.
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6. Increasing their focus on academics.

Where we have been:

Besides the GPA requirement from the school, and the few changes organizations make to raise that, there isn't anything keeping an organization on par with a certain GPA. Academics is something Greeks should pride themselves with yet few organizations promoted to the greater Monmouth community. Many organizations within mpgc have held study nights that invite Greeks and the community out to and that is something that should be continued. It is nearly a trend that is not as closely followed elsewhere. There is always the option to raise the GPA requirement for all chapters, but better systems can be made.

Where we want to be:

Academics on the chapters executive boards should be promoted. This means that there is a representative that is part of the board for the fraternity that is strictly tasked with managing the academics of the entire chapter. Whether it is managing required library hours or study systems, creating a textbook sharing Network, or pooling study guides and work for respective classes and teachers this chair is in charge of it all. If this were to be implemented for all organizations we believe that there would be greater emphasis on academics as each chapter would be reporting to an executive board member for those things.

Furthermore, an idea that could be used to promote better chapter diversity in academic is placing new GPA requirements managed by percentages. This would mean a certain percentage

of each chapter would have to maintain a specific GPA. If chapters fall behind on this they can argue their case and involvement academically, or face social probation.

7. Alcohol, substance abuse and what are they doing about sexual misconduct

Where we have been:

1. Prior to TIPS training, which is training for intervention procedures, there existed no event(s) which focused strictly on alcohol awareness. Alcohol awareness was often taught within chapters and new members would learn about alcohol awareness new member education sessions lead by active members of the Greek community. TIPS training, a training held often by the office of Fraternity and Sorority life, is a 2 hour training session that requires a percentage from chapters and educates members on alcohol awareness. During these sessions, members learn important information such as how to identify someone who is intoxicated and their severity of intoxication and what to do to help someone who is intoxicated. During new member education sessions, new members learn about hazing, sexual assault, and alcohol and substance abuse. Additionally, Hunting Ground, a documentary about sexual misconduct in college, is shown to new members during the six week education process. Hunting Ground highlights the severity of sexual misconduct and highlights that no one is alone.

Where we want to be:

Chapters are to be without issues concerning alcohol, substance abuse, and sexual misconduct. The FIPG rules are to be followed by every chapter. The Greek Senate should be aware that every chapter has a plan in place to discipline and help those who deal with alcohol and substance abuse. The Greek Senate should also be aware of when an event takes place so that we can offer further help. Emotional and physical health are all equally important and no Greek member should be left alone to suffer. However, when a chapter violates FIPG rules, social probation will be effective immediately upon investigation and further measures will be taken that include but are not limited to cease and desist, suspension or expulsion.

Other Ideas:

The University, and many organization, may also benefit from workshops that discuss very basic medical procedures. This would mean something like CPR training, and a certain percentage of members would go and become CPR certified. This along with any advice or training on how to take care of a person until proper help arrives would only benefit the school.