

# Sorority and Fraternity Life Strategic Planning Updates October- Joint Meeting

## Housing, Finance, and Operations Working Group

-Housing and Operations Working Group (HOWG) provided updates on Eagle Row house ownership research. The working group's assessment is that the houses are owned by Emory. This conclusion has been due to case law on the matter directly involving Emory.

- HOWG provided updates on the facilities conditions and financial positions for the fraternity houses on Eagle Row, including: current status of reserves, estimated financial performance for the next several years, and the deferred maintenance of the facilities.

## Self- Governance, Leadership, and Education Working Group

a. development of the sorority and fraternity life narrative (our story, purpose and data sharing) via website, social media etc., • The 150th anniversary of Greek Life is an amazing opportunity to show the University's support of Greek Life.

• We recommend a full-year celebration in 2019, beginning with Founder's Day in February, Dooley's Week in the Spring, Commencement activity, Orientation in August, Homecoming in October, and Emory Cares in September.

• 2018 can serve as our ramp-up period – convening a university committee to plan the celebration, publish positive stories to prime the pump for 2019, develop logo and marketing materials.

• ACTION: Convene Committee to start the planning.

d. relationship and trust building between students, staff, alumni, and headquarters

e. definition of and actions for self-governance and accountability • considering a retool of "self governance" being our focus and moving to recommendations focused on building trust between the administration, staff, alumni, and students through transparency, communication, and group accountability expectations.

• focusing on revamping walk-throughs, improving fraternity housing, building pride within the fraternities (work parties and shared responsibility to keep housing clean and undamaged), and changing the narrative on campus to reflect the commitment of the University to Greek Life.

k. community building within the sorority and fraternity community,

• Our focus so far has been on the community building among the Councils.

ACTION: Plan initial meeting of Councils to develop a system of communication, structure, etc.

l. review of nomenclatures and recommendations for changes/communication

• Continued research is needed to confirm some of the issues that were raised. (Campus Tour, Maps, and outreach to First-Year Students).

# Sorority and Fraternity Life Strategic Planning Updates October- Joint Meeting Cont.

## Self- Governance, Leadership, and Education Working Group Cont.

n. Development and alignment of policy and protocol between assignments, facility services, and programming.

To improve communication between Housing Operations, Facilities Services, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, fraternity and sorority chapters, and other relevant constituents, it is recommended that a new standing committee be developed. The purpose of this committee is to review a number of topics that will ensure all parties are on the same page as relates to assignments, facilities, and programming in Greek spaces. Specific points of discussion for this committee are outlined below.

Existing structures: A Greek Life standing committee already exists including members of Housing Operations, Residential Life, and the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life: Many of the discussion topics occurring within this group can be and should be taken to this new standing committee comprised of senior staff members who have “decision-making” authority for their respective areas. See points of discussion and committee membership recommendations below for this new standing committee.

Points of discussion:

Assignments

- Review and discuss occupancy requirements and the ability for chapters to meet those requirements.
- Review policies regarding non-affiliated students living in fraternity and sorority housing and examine the consequences and benefits of these decisions.
- Discuss issues of equity regarding filling spaces for larger houses (versus smaller houses).
- Discuss how to accommodate chapters with occupancy challenges without chapters going into debt.

Facilities

- Review changes to services to the houses (i.e. custodial, maintenance, etc.).
- Keep everyone up-to-date on large projects, repairs, and renovations.
- Discuss how to manage houses going offline and anticipating any needs or issues.
- Discuss which buildings are in need for repair (per student voices and student advocacy).

Programming

- Review how chapters plan to use their spaces (party themes).
- Review timing of services (i.e. custodial, maintenance, etc.) and how services may interfere or interact with programs being hosted in fraternity and sorority spaces.

Frequency of meetings: This standing committee should meet quarterly with ad hoc meetings set as necessary.

Additional recommendations:

- Items from the existing Greek Life meeting (mentioned above) would be taken to this new standing committee when necessary and relevant.
- Ideas, changes, or considerations coming this new committee must be as developed and “set in stone” as possible. Ideas cannot be “half-baked.”
- Meeting notes should be sent to the entire committee post-meeting to ensure those not in attendance are caught up with the goings on of the committee.
- Due to the potentially sensitive nature of these meetings, all committee members should be reminded of confidentiality, particularly student members.