



**Chapter/Graduate Advisor & House Corporation Board Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2008, Phillips Hall, Room 214**

- I. Introductions & Welcome
 - a. Present: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Chi, Delta Gamma, Delta Zeta, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa Psi, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Lambda Beta and Sigma Chi

- II. Fall 2008 Semester Highlights
 - a. Attached with these minutes is a list of the Fall highlights for the University of Iowa Fraternity and Sorority Community.

- III. Chapter Structure/Winter Closing Form
 - a. These forms are due to Kelly Jo by Thursday, December 18th. Extra copies were handed out to any chapter who needed them.

- IV. Alcohol Skills Training Program (ASTP)
 - a. Thus far, the following chapters have completed the ASTP training. Two months after the training, the students will take a survey and then the chapter will receive it's \$100 grant to use for alcohol free programming/events.
 - i. Phi Kappa Psi
 - ii. Phi Beta Chi
 - iii. All NPHC (Phi Beta Sigma, Zeta Phi Beta, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Lambda Beta, Sigma Lambda Gamma)

- V. Association of Fraternity Advisor's Updates
 - a. Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) Fraternity – we had the chance to meet with the Expansion Director at AFA and confirmed that we will begin work with FIJI to return to campus in Fall 2009. The organization will be making a visit to campus in early Spring.
 - b. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. & Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. – conversations were had at AFA with both of these national NPHC organizations to explore the possibility of their return back to Iowa.
 - c. Dr. Nelson wins the Shaffer Award – this is the highest honor given from AFA that a campus based professional can win. AFA only awards one award a year.
 - d. Kelly Jo is the President-Elect for AFA
 - e. Trends & Issues
 - i. Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (CHIA) – this is the act that would allow for fraternity and sorority alumni to donate money for chapter structure improvements (fire sprinkler systems, etc.) with the donations to be a tax deduction. We are very close in trying to get this bill attached to the new Federal "Bail Out" bill for the Auto Industry. After the CHIA

passes, the Fraternity Political Action Committee (Frat PAC) will begin to look into the issues of college affordability...which is an issue that effects every organization. Along with CHIA, colleges are being asked to secure letters of support from their University Presidents to provide to senators and representatives about CHIA. Iowa has a letter on file from the previous president, but we need to work on securing a letter from the current president Sally Mason.

- ii. Updates to FIPG – FIPG made some updates to their risk management policies in July 2008. New copies were handed out. I have attached the new policies to this e-mail/meeting minutes.
- iii. The Amethyst Initiative – this has been a hot topic out in the higher education realm. The initiative asks for college and university presidents to consider the conversation that “the 21 year-old drinking age is not working and that it is time for a serious debate on this issue.” There are currently over 130 presidents signed off on this, but no Big 10 School. Just a topic of conversation as to what the issues are out there, related to alcohol.

VI. TAGARISTA Awards – discussion topic

- a. The award is too long (21 pages) and some consider it a ridiculous amount of information required of the students.
- b. The awards are due before finals, which seems like bad timing. (In the past, the awards were due in January, but many chapters found that the awards feel to the new officers, who did not have all of the answers about the “past years” info).
- c. There is quite an expense required to complete the award binders (binders, copying, tabs, etc.)
- d. Advisors have to “sign off” to make sure it is accurate, and many do not have the time to read it all before it is due.
- e. Clarify the bylaw requirement – they are NOT needed
- f. It has become a “cutting and pasting” activity, versus a reflection of accomplishments.
- g. We need to look at adding some open-ended questions.
- h. It can be too cumbersome to apply. How do we get more of our chapters to apply?
- i. What can chapters strive for in certain areas? Benchmarking? Star ranking system (Gold Star or 5 Star Chapter?)? Use it to set goals for chapters to reach?
- j. Why are binders due in December?
 - i. Kelly Jo & Melissa have made the decision to extend the deadline to help unburden chapters. Melissa will send out the new deadline to chapters.
 - ii. It was suggested to have the awards due before Thanksgiving to avoid Finals.
- k. Maybe we can look at using an ICON page to uploading the awards vs. binders.

VII. House Director’s Report – Jo Fisher

- a. The Professional House Director’s Conference, June 25 – 28, 2009, Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada. Go to www.mgca.org for more information. Please consider sending your House Director to this great educational program.
- b. The House Directors held their Holiday Party
- c. The House Directors are extremely thankful for all of the information they have been receiving.

VIII. Other Agenda Items

- a. Greeks Go Green – there is a lot of interest around sustainability. We will explore beginning a chapter of “Greeks Go Green” at Iowa in the Spring.
 - i. It was noted that Mid-American Energy can also come in and do an “energy audit” for structures.
- b. Panhellenic Scholarships – if NPC has scholarships available, chapters would like the opportunity to nominate people to apply.
- c. Pranking & Stolen Items – this will be a topic of discussion for the 2009 F/S Leadership Advance with the expectation that some new rules and guidelines be created around this issue.
 - i. Phi Delta Theta is missing a very valuable composite they need returned immediately.
- d. Capitol Campaigns – many chapters are undergoing these currently and had questions for other groups about their process and projected numbers.
 - i. Phi Kappa Psi is using Pennington & Co and is starting their feasibility study this weekend.
 - ii. Delta Chi used Pennington & Co and was able to raise about \$400,000. They are continuing on their own, but have been very satisfied.
 - iii. Phi Delta Theta is using Pennington & Co and are just wrapping their feasibility study.

IX. Chapter Announcements

X. Next Meeting:

- a. Days/times for Spring – we did not discuss, but we do have “past” suggestions and will set the two spring meetings accordingly.

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