

Summary of Key Findings from the Panhellenic Focus Group **September 26, 2008**

There seems to be an overall positive feeling about involvement in sorority life at OWU. Greek life tends to be described in terms of sorority involvement versus sorority and fraternity involvement underscoring an apparent gulf between Greek women and men at OWU.

- The size of the university and size of chapters is positive.
- The five sororities have distinctive characteristics that provide diverse options for women
- Sorority life is valuable in several ways including: providing leadership opportunities, a family away from home, accountability of women to higher standings, service to others.
- Sororities focus on adding value to the student experience through networking, building community, service, and philanthropy. They focus less on material benefits such as housing and dining that are offered in the fraternities.
- Involvement in athletics and sorority life should be both/and instead of either/or.
- There needs to be more visible support from administration and faculty through attendance at events and practicing an effective working relationship.
- Trust needs to be fostered between fraternities and sororities in order for collaboration to occur on event planning and implementation.
- There is a perception that sororities are compelled by fraternities to compete against one another in fraternity-sponsored philanthropic events.
- There have been some situations in which sorority women report feeling “degraded” as they participate in some fraternity-sponsored philanthropic events.

The future of Greek life can be enhanced by increasing numbers of involved students, improving communication inside and outside of the Greek community, and improving fraternity life by focusing more on philanthropy, service, recruitment, honoring tradition, and building spirit.

- Improve communication between fraternities and sororities.
- Promote a greater awareness of and excitement about Greek life.
- Integrate Greek life into the Slice program for prospective students.
- Foster continuity among Greek leadership and alumni involvement.
- Try to unite fraternities and sororities into a common Greek community.
- Use the Hill and Welch lawn as Greek programming venues.
- Time some programs during lunch hours when there is peak student presence on campus.
- To promote Greek participation in athletic events, have Greek nights at the games.
- Fraternities need to schedule philanthropies throughout the year rather than all at once.
- Fraternities should more completely publicize the nature and purpose of their philanthropies to the community.

