

Summary of Key Findings
Faculty Advisors and
Student Affairs Staff
October 23, 2008

Perceptions of Fraternity and Sorority Life:

- * There were previously more staff members to work with Greek life, which was reflective of a larger Greek community.
- * Greek life at OWU is not distinctive among our peer institutions.
- * Sororities are active, involved, and spirited.
- * Fraternities seem to be "tired" with minimal involvement and spirit.
- * Fraternities do not publicize their programs.
- * Fraternities are not visible in what minimal recruiting they do.
- * Historically there has been camaraderie and discipline among fraternity men.
- * In unexpected, unplanned visits to chapter houses, the environment seems in disarray.
- * There is more cohesiveness among sororities.
- * Annual dinners held with faculty are nice.
- * There is nothing educational seen in the fraternities.
- * The role of advisors in some cases is that of only a signature for registration.
- * Fraternities seem to be insular and advisors are uninvited to participate in fraternity meetings and events.
- * The relationship between advisors and fraternity members seems to be more individualized than tied with the chapter as a whole.
- * There is a marvelous relationship between advisors and sororities.
- * Sororities are less insular than fraternities.
- * Leadership, community service, and learning are significant in the sorority experience.
- * The fraternity is view as a "house" not a "chapter."
- * There seems to be a lack of attention to ritual, history, and traditions in fraternities.
- * There is minimal accountability in the fraternity system as compared to sororities which have multiple accountability mechanisms, driven to a large extent by national offices.
- * Typically semester dues for sororities are about \$525.
- * NPHC chapters, which are citywide involving students and community members from a variety of schools and communities, are challenging to work with due to their broader member base.
- * NPHC chapters are heavy into ritual, history, and tradition.
- * There is value to positive relationships between alumni and chapters in terms of networking, fostering connections, and increase financial support to the chapter and OWU.

Suggestions for the road map to improve fraternity and sorority life:

- * The advisor role needs to be more structured and defined.
- * Advisors could be identified by student affairs, trained, and assigned to chapters.

- * There should be quarterly meetings with fraternity advisors.
- * Alumni could foster more attention to ritual in fraternities.
- * There could be more regular formal meetings in each chapter.
- * Consider annual re-chartering of Greek letter organizations on campus.
- * Build better accountability mechanisms for all stakeholders.
- * The role of the house parent needs to be clarified and accountability measures need to be put in place for these positions.
- * Consider the notion of a residential or non-residential Panhellenic house.
- * Accountability must be coupled with institutional commitment.
- * Students need to be informed of the role of the advisor.
- * Consider raising academic standards for participation in Greek life.
- * Obtain data regarding the retention of Greek-affiliated students and non-Greek affiliated students.

From an email communication:

- * One concrete suggestion to improve the life of a given house on campus would be to make clear the expectation that they will have a faculty advisor with whom they will cultivate a relationship, who will stand ready to serve as a counselor, advocate, friend, and mentor.