

DRAFT
Scholarship Task Force
Greek Affairs at Bowling Green State University
Fall 2004

Background Information

In an effort to further explore the needs surrounding scholarship in the Greek community, Greek Affairs at Bowling Green State University formed a Scholarship Task Force. This committee consists of representatives from the BGSU faculty, staff, and students from the four BGSU Greek councils (Inter-Fraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Greek Independent Board). The task force is headed by Dr. Ron Binder, Associate Director of Residence Life/Director of Greek Affairs, assisted by Andrea Obrochta, Graduate Assistant for Assessment and Scholarship in Greek Affairs. This group has worked together over a period of four weeks beginning September and continuing through October 2004 in an effort to develop recommendations for ways to improve and further support high levels of scholarship in the Greek community at BGSU. Subcommittees were also formed within the task force to focus specifically on policy, educational programming and resources, and recognition and incentives. The information relayed in this document includes a recognition of the policies, programs, resources, recognition and incentives that were already in place and the recommendations resulting from the work of the subcommittees and the task force overall.

**BGSU Residence Life - Greek Affairs
Mission Statement**

Building a premier Fraternity and Sorority Community in North America utilizing continuous improvement that provides the following:

1. A quality undergraduate residential experience for the housed fraternities and sororities.
2. A complete quality undergraduate fraternity and sorority experience that builds community among all Greeks and that emphasizes our founding principles of:
 - Scholarship**
 - Service**
 - Leadership**
 - Brotherhood/Sisterhood**
3. A commitment to furthering the Greek Advising profession through a quality graduate preparatory experience, research, conference attendance and presentation and national leadership.

Focus Areas for Scholarship in Greek Affairs

1. Policy
2. Educational Programming and Resources
3. Recognition / Incentives

I. Policy

Current BGSU Greek Community Scholarship Policy

1. Currently, in order to bid a Panhellenic sorority or IFC fraternity, a potential new member (PNM) must have a 2.5 High School GPA. (IFC – raised Fall 2004, implement Spring 2005)
2. Achieve a 2.00 chapter GPA to be in Good Standing – if the GPA falls under a 2.00, group is not recognized as a chapter. (Greek Affairs – as of Spring 2004)
3. Achieve a 2.50 chapter GPA in order to maintain an on-campus chapter house or room in Conklin North. (Greek Affairs – recent)
4. In order to participate in intramural sports, IFC members should have a 2.5 GPA in the past semester. (IFC)
5. A signed grade release form must be submitted each semester for all new members. Grade reports are released to chapter president and chapter advisor. (Greek Affairs)
6. Chapters must annually submit their academic incentives (how members are rewarded for good grades).
7. Each chapter should have a Faculty Advisor. (Greek Affairs)
8. Each chapter should have an Alumni Chapter Advisor. (Greek Affairs)

Proposed Recommendations (from Policy subcommittee)

- Each chapter must have a faculty advisor. Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs, Individual Chapter Leadership
- Each Greek Council (GIB, IFC, NPHC, Panhellenic) must have an appointed scholarship chair for that council (or position responsible specifically for scholarship). Responsible party: Council Leadership, Office of Greek Affairs
- Each individual Greek organization must have an appointed scholarship chair (or position responsible specifically for scholarship). Responsible party: Individual Chapter Leadership, accountability through Council leadership as well
- Any Greek organization that falls below the all-undergraduate GPA must have their scholarship chair meet with the Greek Affairs Graduate Assistant for Assessment/Scholarship and must present a written Scholastic Plan of Action for improvement of their chapter's scholarship. Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs, Individual Chapter Leadership
- Each chapter must establish and implement a plan of action for members on academic probation (an established set of expectations and consequences for unmet expectations). Responsible party: Individual Chapter Leadership, Office of Greek Affairs
- Each chapter must submit their scholarship plan by the third week of the fall semester to the appropriate council scholarship chair. Failure to comply will result in: a warning (after 1 week late), loss of voting privileges (after 2 weeks late), and loss of bursar privileges (after 3 weeks late). Responsible party: Chapter leadership, All Greek Councils
- A chapter's scholarship plan must include their plan of action in 3 areas: New Members, Active Members, and Members on academic probation/bad standing. Responsible party: Chapter leadership, All Greek Councils
- A colony should obtain/maintain a 2.5 GPA during its 4 academic semesters in order to be retained and recognized. Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs
- If a chapter does not meet the minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, bursar privileges will be revoked until the chapter makes improvement. Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs

II. Educational Programming and Resources

Current Programs

1. Letters @ the Library
 - a. Monday nights (2 hours)
 - b. Wear letters / Sign in

- c. Weekly drawings & semester/yearly incentives
2. Panhellenic / IFC / NPHC / GIB programs
 - a. "Buddying & Studying" (Fall 2004)
 - b. Alpha Tutoring Program
3. Scholarship Roundtables
 - a. VP Scholarship (IFC/Panhellenic) meet monthly with chapter scholarship chairs
 - b. Debates, activities, assessment, share resources/plans
4. Scholarship Bowl (tentatively Spring, Union Ballroom)
 - a. Sorority vs. Sorority / Fraternity vs. Fraternity
 - b. Similar to high school quiz bowl
 - c. Trophy for winner & recognition at Greek Awards
5. Publicity (BGNews Ads including cost to Greek Affairs and frequency of ad)
 - a. Greek students on Dean's List (\$1,000/semester)
 - b. Greek Awards (Spring / \$1,000)
 - c. Greek Report (Added all-member cumulative GPA per chapter to report Spring 2004) (\$750/semester)
 - d. Panhellenic Month of the Scholar (paid for by Panhellenic council)
 - e. Gamma Sigma Alpha inductees (ad lists new member class) (\$500/semester)
 - f. Order of Omega initiates (ad lists new member class) (\$500/semester)
 - g. National Awards / Council Awards (\$500/fall semester)
6. Faculty Advisors
 - a. Receive \$100.00 per semester to spend on chapters

Proposed Recommendations (from Educational Programming & Resources subcommittee)

- Improve position description for Faculty Advisors. Clarify roles and responsibilities. (Such as: Faculty advisor should work with the chapter scholarship chair in developing the chapter scholarship program, should meet with chapter exec to make sure programs are being followed, should meet with new members on the importance of class attendance and grades, should follow up with new members struggling academically at least twice a semester to check on progress, etc.) Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs
- The amount of funding that a faculty advisor receives to use for the chapter should depend on the number of members in the chapter in order to better meet the needs of that chapter (on a scale, minimum \$100 – maximum \$200). Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs
- Organize a luncheon for faculty advisors and chapter scholarship chairs (each semester). Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs, all Greek Councils
- Create and/or clarify a standard position description and expectation of duties for chapter scholarship chairs. Responsible party: All Greek Councils, Greek Chapters
- Create and/or clarify a standard position description and expectation of duties for council scholarship chairs. Responsible party: All Greek Councils
- All chapters should submit their scholarship plans to the council Scholarship chairs. The scholarship chairs will also work with Greek Affairs in reviewing the plans. Responsible party: All Greek Councils, Office of Greek Affairs
- Council scholarship chairs should develop a scholarship program that can be used as a resource for all chapters looking to adopt a new program. Responsible party: All Greek Councils
- Chapter scholarship chairs should be in direct and regular communication with the chapter's faculty advisor. Responsible party: Greek Chapters
- Alpha Tutors should be rewarded when the person he/she is tutoring demonstrates a marked improvement in the subject area in which he/she is being tutored. Coordination of Alpha Program is the responsibility of the Greek Councils with assistance by Greek Affairs. Responsible party: All Greek Councils, Office of Greek Affairs

- Induct officers for Gamma Sigma Alpha and outline duties for officers and membership for the academic support of the Greek Community. Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs

III. Recognition / Incentives

Current Recognition

1. Incentives issued by councils (often food and/or money)
2. Recognition by Greek Affairs through BGNews Ads and Greek Awards (see above listing)

Proposed Recommendations (from Recognition/Incentives subcommittee)

- Establish a “Most Improved Chapter Award” to be handed out each semester. The chapter who receives the award will have their picture in the BGNews, along with information how they received the award (this would be part of one ad in the BGNews that would also include the Most Improved Member recipients – see below). It would be based on Semester GPA only. Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs
- Councils establish a “Most Improved Member” award for each chapter. Each chapter would be required to give the council the name of the member with the most improved GPA for the semester. The council’s scholarship chair would be responsible for placing an ad in the BGNews with a picture of each chapter’s recipient, each semester (this would be part of one ad in the BGNews that would also include the Most Improved Chapter Award recipient – see above). Responsible party: The 4 Greek Councils, Office of Greek Affairs
- The Scholarship chairs establish a “Scholar of the Week” award. Chapters would submit their recommendations, including justification for why the member should receive the award. One person per week would receive the award and their picture and recommendation would be put on the www.GreekBGSU.com website. Responsible party: The 4 Greek Councils
- Each recipient of the “Most Improved Member” and “Scholar of the Week” awards would each be placed into a drawing at the end of each semester – there would be two drawings, 4 members from each group would win \$25 gift certificate to the University Bookstore. The winners will also be announced on the www.GreekBGSU.com website. Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs
- Each Greek student who earns greater than or equal to the Non-Greek GPA will be invited to attend a formal banquet at the end of the academic year. The students who were on Dean’s List anytime throughout the year, who were the “Most Improved Member” and who won “Scholar of the Week” awards would be recognized at the banquet as well. Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs
- At the Greek Awards each spring, a slide show should be playing in the background as students enter. On the slide show will be pictures, names, affiliation, and reason of each student who:
 - Made Dean’s List either semester
 - Was the “Most Improved Member” of their chapter either semester
 - Won “Scholar of the Week” any time that academic year
 - Gamma Sigma Alpha members
 - Order of Omega members
 Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs
- The council will award a \$10 gift certificate to the University Bookstore to students who earn a 4.0 in a semester. Responsible party: The 4 Greek Councils
- All New Members who earn a GPA greater than or equal to the “Non-Greek GPA” will be entered into a drawing, with 10 winners each receiving a \$25 gift certificate. These New Member’s names and pictures would be placed in an ad in the BGNews each semester. Responsible party: The 4 Greek Councils
- Each council should set a GPA standard that each chapter in that council should aim for. Any chapter whose GPA is greater than or equal to that standard would not have to pay Council dues for that semester. Responsible party: The 4 Greek Councils

- Award a \$25 gift certificate to students using the Alpha Program who are improving in that particular class. If the professor can verify that the tutored student has improved in the specific course then both tutor and tutored student would receive the gift certificates. Responsible party: Office of Greek Affairs
- Between the four Greek councils, a total of \$5,000 per year must be spent in order for these incentives to be accomplished.

Resources:

1. Greek Report: BGSU Fall 2002, Spring 2003, Fall 2003, Spring 2004 (available at www.greekbgsu.com)
2. Position Description – The Role of a Faculty Advisor (available at www.greekbgsu.com)
3. Listing of Greek Awards
4. Sample semester chapter grade report
5. Comparison of Greek vs. Non-Greek GPA (graph)
6. Sample of Dean's List Ad from BGNews
7. IFC constitution, policies and bi-laws

Additional Resources to view:

1. Greek **BGSU** Website www.greekbgsu.com
2. Gamma Sigma Alpha - Research Initiative page www.gammsigmaalpha.org