



## Greek Housing Task Force

During the 2006 Greek Affairs Program Review, Greek Housing was identified as an area that needed to be examined more fully. To that end, during the summer of 2006 a Greek Housing Task Force was convened and charged with the following:

- To investigate the various methods for university-owned Greek housing across the country
- To conduct a Greek Housing conference call among those universities identified as having similar on-campus Greek housing situations to gain insight into other models BGSU might want to emulate
- To examine the overall relationship between BGSU and Greek housing
- To examine the financial aspect of Greek housing
- To make recommendations to the Director of Residence Life on how to provide, finance and manage Greek housing
- To make recommendations on how to improve the overall quality of the Greek housing experience
- To make these recommendations by the beginning of Fall semester 2006

The Greek Housing Task Force was comprised by the following individuals

- Dr. Ron Binder, Assoc. Dir. of Residence Life and Director of Greek Affairs
- Leo Svoboda, IFC Director of Recruitment
- Ashley Howard, Alpha Chi Omega sorority president
- Tierney Grayson, NPHC president
- Terry Nigh, Kappa Sigma fraternity advisor
- Joanne Preest, Delta Zeta sorority advisor
- LaTasha Wilson, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. advisor

Meetings of the task force were held every Tuesday at 5:30 in 450A of the Saddleire building, beginning June 20<sup>th</sup> and ran through August 8.

The task force was supported by Greek Affairs and Chad Clark, the Greek Affairs summer intern.

In order to give task force members a background on Greek Housing at BGSU, the following material was supplied prior to the first meeting:

- An outline of the Housing Administration process at BGSU and how Greek Affairs fits within this group
- Greek House Director Job Description
- BGSU individual student housing contract
- BGSU Greek house chapter contract

- Renovation guidelines and schedule for the past three years with projections of renovations for the next three years
- Overall Greek Budget
- Services and Requirements for fraternities and sororities at BGSU
- Greek housing renovation form
- Greek housing individual room painting form

Several guest speakers attended task force meetings to give their input on Greek Housing at BGSU. These guest speakers included the following:

- Julie Harbal, Residence Life Interior Designer
- Tim Carney, Associate Director of Residence Life for Facilities
- Michelle Banks, Development Office

A conference call was held with ten colleges and universities with on-campus Greek Housing on Tuesday, July 18. Those on the two-hour conference call were the following:

- BGSU Greek House Task Force, headed by Dr. Ron Binder.
- Kurt Foriska, The Ohio State University
- Chris Bullins, University of Florida
- Carolyn Whittier, Elon College
- Michelle Castro, University of New Mexico
- Bart Andrus, Western Carolina University
- Anne Arseneau, College of William and Mary
- Cara Luyster & Lynda Wily, Ball State University
- Eric Norman, Louisiana State University
- Jan Schaefer, Alpha Phi Housing Corporation

Draft recommendations were circulated among the task force members with the final recommendations made on August 15. These recommendations are below.

### Greek Housing Task Force Recommendations with Status

1. To move forward the idea of building a new Greek Village as soon as possible.
  - a. A Greek Village Planning Group should be created consisting of representatives from each council, as well as key housing and other administrators by Fall 2007. This planning group should take into account the following:
    - i. Sororities in sorority row should be included in the plan to bring all groups in one area.
    - ii. Create house sizes that are "Chapter-Specific", they should have input on the size of their house, as well as its interior and exterior (i.e. architecture, colors used, etc.).

- iii. Focus on the idea for the “need”, in terms of how beneficial it will be to the Greek Community (i.e. unity, elimination of disparities in housing, etc.).
- iv. Work with national organizations to allow groups to add more personality to their houses.

**Status: This recommendation is being reviewed by Residence Life.**

2. To develop a policy for Old Fraternity Row houses to use their attics for storage by Fall 2006. This policy should include the following:
  - a. Create clear rules for the use of attic space
  - b. Annual or semi-annual inspections of the attics by Greek House Staff.
  - c. Exclude any flammable materials
  - d. Create guidelines for furniture storage in the attic
  - e. Provide access only through the Greek House Staff

**Status: Residence Life is studying this recommendation along with Fire Safety.**

3. To publicize the renovation schedule to all presidents and advisors and to utilize the Greek Housing Board to make recommendations on renovations.

**Status: The Greek Housing Board (a student-run board) will make recommendations as to long-term renovations, in conjunction with the Residence Life Facilities area, beginning Fall 2006.**

4. To establish a fund for individuals to donate money for use of renovating Greek houses, without a specific chapter in mind. This money could also be saved for any potential large Greek housing projects waiting for funding.

**Status: All fraternities and sororities will have BGSU Foundation Accounts established to receive gifts from alumni and friends beginning Spring 2007.**

5. To investigate why upper-class students move out of Greek Housing, perhaps as part of the Retention Task Force scheduled for Fall 2006.

**Status: The Retention Task Force for Fall 2006 has made this a part of their charge. In addition, a focus group has been held Fall 2006 with Greek residents to gain their insights.**

6. To provide PED access to chapter presidents, upon request, for the summer and breaks, to facilitate their access to their houses.

**Status: Greek Affairs will develop a policy by Summer 2007. Chapter/Grad Advisors currently have PED access 24/7/365.**

7. To provide for Greek residents to reside in their houses during the Spring and Winter break, provided they make an application to Greek Affairs, and that they are either an executive committee officer, an internship or co-op, student teacher or

methods, on-campus employment, junior or senior, and have a 2.75 GPA (either semester or cumulative).

**Status: Beginning with the Fall 2006 break, Greek residents were given this opportunity. This will be monitored by Greek Affairs.**

8. To provide a wider array of color choices for Greek residents to paint their individual rooms provided they meet with Julie Harbal, Residence Life Interior Designer, to choose from many University approved color swatches.

**Status: Color choices were expanded significantly beginning Fall 2006.**

9. To provide paint primer to those students painting their individual rooms when needed.

**Status: Primer was offered beginning Fall 2006.**

10. To modify the Academic Incentive Program Fund for Greek Chapters, beginning with Fall 2006 grades. to the following:
  - a. Incentive dollars available each semester should be \$7,500 (\$15,000 annually)
  - b. Fraternities with a GPA above either the All-Men's Undergrad or All-Fraternity GPA (whichever is higher); and sororities with a GPA above either the All-Women's Undergrad or All-Sorority GPA (again, whichever is higher) may split the \$7,500. This is to ensure that both men and women have an equal opportunity to receive these incentives.

**Status: Beginning with the Fall 2006 Greek Report, these new criteria will be implemented.**

11. To increase the number of housed NPHC and GIB groups over the next three years from the current four (Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, and Sigma Lambda Gamma sorority).

**Status: The Greek Housing Board hopes to allocate another Brookwood house for 2007-2008 to an NPHC/GIB group.**

12. To adjust the Greek House Staff job description to include that all GHS members must attend at least one IFC, NPC, NPHC, and GIB event each semester.

**Status: The Greek Housing Staff job description will be modified Spring 2007 for the 2007-2008 academic year (this job description is modified annually. In addition, the GHS job description was sent to all chapter/grad advisors Fall 2006.**

13. To create more awareness of the housing services provided to Greeks (i.e. Interior Design Department, furniture purchase, policies, etc.) through the Greek web site, meetings with house managers, chapter advisor meetings, and Greek Council meetings.

**Status: At the Greek Presidents retreat this document was handed out and will be again at the January Greek Presidents retreat.**

14. To provide for a forum for undergraduate Greek House Managers to meet each semester to discuss their role and housing policies.

**Status: A Greek House Managers meeting was held Fall 2006 with good results and will be repeated semesterly.**

15. To increase the number of single rooms in the Conklin houses to entice more upperclassmen to reside in the house where needed and where chapters can take advantage of this.

**Status: This recommendation is being reviewed by Residence Life.**

16. To develop a plan for the Conklin houses to be shared beginning Fall 2007.

**Status: This recommendation is being reviewed by Residence Life.**