



IFC Expansion Task Force

During the Fall of 2006, an IFC Expansion Task Force was convened and charged with the following:

- To investigate the elements of a successful colonization process for IFC fraternities at BGSU including:
 - identifying what BGSU (its offices and the IFC), area alumni, and National Headquarters need to provide colonies for them to be successful chapters
- To determine the overall IFC expansion process for the next 3 years including which national fraternities to invite to BGSU
- To make recommendations to the Vice President for Student Affairs on the overall IFC expansion process by November 1, 2006

The Greek Expansion Task Force was comprised by the following individuals:

- Dr. Ron Binder, Assoc. Dir. of Residence Life and Director of Greek Affairs
- Eric Heilmeyer, IFC President
- Josh Benner, Phi Delta Theta fraternity
- Tim Smith, Phi Kappa Tau chapter advisor
- Lori Corvino, BGSU Alumni Office

Meetings of the task force were held every Wednesday at 6:30 in 450A of the SaddleMire building, beginning October 11 through November 1.

Greek Affairs Staff and Steven Lerer, Graduate Assistant to the Interfraternity Council, provided support to the task force.

In order to give task force members information on expansion, the following individuals were contacted and asked to provide information about their past expansion efforts:

- Grant Neckermann, Director of Expansion, Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity
- Joe Wachs Director of Chapter Services and Expansion, Theta Chi Fraternity
- Ben Breunig, Director of Expansion, Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity
- Josh Yeager, Expansion Consultant, Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity
- Michael J. Church, Director of Expansion, Sigma Chi Fraternity
- JB Scherpelz, Director of Expansion and Recruitment, Beta Theta Pi Fraternity
- Ronald K. Ransom II, Director of Expansion, Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity
- Robert P. Kameen, Coordinator, Fraternity and Sorority Life. Penn State University
- Matthew I. Tobe, Regional Director of Expansion, Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

During subsequent meetings, members of the task force decided it was important to remain faithful to the alumni of Bowling Green State University and to that end, focus only on those chapters that had at one time been on the BGSU campus. From this list of eight national fraternities, the task force requested the following information:

- A listing of the active chapters of those organizations that were within a three-hour radius of Bowling Green
- A listing of the number of alumni from each organization who live in Bowling Green and the surrounding area
- The chartering year for each organization and the year that each organization left the Bowling Green campus
- Information from each organization in regards to when they would like to return to Bowling Green

After considerable deliberations, the task force made the following recommendations:

1. Before a chapter is brought to the campus, an agreement needs to be made between the Headquarters and BGSU, as to expectations that each brings to this endeavor. This agreement has three parts: what BGSU (its offices and the IFC) agree to provide as support, what the Headquarters agree to provide as support, and what the local alumni agree to provide as support. Below are the elements of these three areas.
 - a. **BGSU should provide the following support to expanding colonies:**
 - Assistance in recruiting alumni for an alumni advisory board, to include alumni from BGSU and other schools.
 - Housing for the chapter consultants sent from the national headquarters.
 - Assistance from an IFC chapter that is in good standing to mentor the new colony on such topics as running a chapter meeting, running a risk management program, creating a philanthropy, new member education program, brotherhoods, recruitment, etc.
 - A liaison from the Executive board of the IFC to meet with the colony bi-weekly.
 - A staff member from the Office of Alumni Affairs as a liaison for the colony to work with the group on alumni issues.
 - A staff member from the Office of Greek Affairs to communicate with the colony on a regular basis.
 - A reception hosted by Greek Affairs for area alumni interested in serving as advisors to the colony.
 - A mailer sent by Greek Affairs to area alumni interested in serving as advisors to the colony.
 - A contact list for the colony advisors of individuals from the chapter who have provided gifts to Bowling Green State University.
 - Utilization of BGSU and Alumni Affairs publications to contact chapter alumni
 - Temporary student organizations status for the colony.
 - Recreation passes to the visiting headquarters staff members.
 - The BGSU academic calendar with important dates that would be helpful to the colony.

- b. **BGSU should expect the colony headquarters to provide the following:**
 - Recruit an alumni volunteer board before the colony comes to campus.
 - Attend the weekly IFC general body meetings.
 - Provide a colonization schedule created for BGSU prior to staff arrival on campus.
 - Meet with all four Greek councils (IFC, Panhellenic, NPHC, GIB).
 - Begin recruitment after IFC recruitment slows down.
 - Contact and solicit support from chapters in the area.
 - Provide significant staff support to the colony for one full semester.
 - Meet with university administrators to gauge interest in the new colony and collect names (Student Affairs and Academic Affairs).
 - c. **BGSU should expect the colony alumni to provide the following support:**
 - Create an advisory board (3-5 members) before the colony begins recruiting.
 - Participate in university meetings and events such as Homecoming, advisor meetings, etc.
 - Mentor the undergraduate members.
 - Attend alumni tracks at national leadership academies/meetings.
 - Provide seed money for endowed scholarship accounts if possible, either through the BGSU Foundation or through the national headquarters foundation.
2. When setting the schedule for whom to invite back to a campus, it must be kept in mind that national headquarters operate under multi-year schedules and thus may not be available to staff a quality expansion effort when it is most desired by the campus. When surveying the headquarters not currently present at BGSU, none were able to adequately staff such an expansion for Fall 2007. Given this, below is the overall IFC expansion process for the next four years:
- a. 2007-2008 academic year, BGSU should not expand to additional fraternities and instead focus on the three current colonies and existing chapters.
 - b. 2008-2009 academic year, BGSU should invite the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity to return to campus.
 - c. 2009-2010 academic year, BGSU should invite the Sigma Chi fraternity to return to campus.
 - d. 2010-2011 academic year, BGSU should invite the Beta Theta Pi fraternity to return to campus.

Finally, the task force makes the following overall recommendations concerning future expansions:

- 1. When negotiating with a national headquarters as to when a chapter should return, BGSU must respect the timelines provided by the headquarters and provide enough time for the headquarters staff to create a successful expansion plan.
- 2. The expansion task force should reconvene during the fall 2008 semester in order to reevaluate the expansion timeline.

3. For any future expansion, it is important to respect the alumni and therefore attempt to bring back organizations who had once been members of the BGSU Greek Community.
4. BGSU must continue to focus on the chapters who are currently on campus and work to improve the community internally to lessen the need for future expansion.
5. Consideration needs to be given to providing adequate housing arrangements for all current and expansion groups on the campus, including new Greek housing such as the proposed Greek Village.