

Greek Living Leaders: Operating the Ultimate Organization

Many may only see collegiate Greek life as a social group who hides their partying behind community service hours and charitable donations. However, I wish to challenge that stereotype by concentrating on the professional development and self-improvement opportunity that's presented to Greek life members - especially those that hold leadership positions. Currently, I serve my one-hundred member sorority as chapter president and work with other officers to maintain a well-balanced, structured, and involved organization.

Fraternities and sororities must operate as a company first, and a socialite second to be able to be successful. I would like to point out some key concepts that show the relation between Greek organizations and businesses.

Greek organizations:

- . Divide officers into teams to work with specific aspects of the chapter
- . Must operate on a strict budget, fueled solely from member's dues
- . Must market themselves well to be able to continue steadily to recruit new members
- . Have mission statements and values to carry their members to and gear their brand
- . Must follow rules from, and report to, their national headquarters
- . Have insurance to cover their organization and its members, along with many policies and procedures in area for holding events

They're just a few points that report how Greek organizations are ran as the best business, combining friendship with professionalism and offering members a great opportunity for personal development.

As president, I see all sides of owning a Greek organization and must help every officer no real matter what team her position is really a part of. My days are full of constantly making decisions and weighing the consequences. I have discovered to create fair decisions that benefit the higher good, while remaining unbiased in the process. I also answer to everyone's questions and concerns while problem solving when an unplanned event takes place. Like, we had a small crisis with flyers that have been made to advertise an event we were having. When they came in, we noticed the contact email on the flyers was spelled wrong. After some deliberation, we chose to utilize the flyers we'd and made a brand new email address with the typo included.

A huge element of managing a successful organization is effective and professional communication. Our main forum of communication between officers and the advisory board is emailing. I have discovered how to properly send and react to emails in a specialist manner. My communication skills have improved substantially since being a leader of my chapter. I have discovered to communicate concisely and format information in the most effective way. I am finding providing information in bullet lists is the better way to obtain members to read messages fully. Our officers must hold team meetings and get reports of progress in the different areas on their team. Officers are in charge of organizing their very own meetings and taking minutes to record the thing that was discussed. Greek organizations teach members to effectively and professionally communicate through emailing, holding meetings, and working with others.

One of the very valuable traits that I'm still learning through my presidency, is how to get more comfortable with hard conversations. I work closely with our Director of Standards and Ethics to ensure our members are holding themselves to our high ideals and values. If someone is falling behind, it's our job to possess conversations with them about why this really is happening and what we could do to make sure it generally does not happen again. These tough conversations become even tougher when remembering that the members of our chapter may also be our friends and sisters. As a leader of a Greek organization, I am understanding how to have these hard conversations while residing in control of myself and the conversation.

Greek life has much more to offer compared to the social aspect of the organization, and can truly prepare young adults to join the professional world. Through developing members personally, and developing officers professionally, Greek organizations can offer life-changing collegiate experiences that can't be found elsewhere.

About the Author

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