## Greek Life Leaders: Working the Final Business

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

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

## Greek organizations:

- . Divide officers into teams to focus on 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 to recruit new members
- . Have mission statements and values to put on 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

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As president, I see all sides of owning a Greek organization and <u>&kappa;&omicron;&rho;&upsilon;&phi;&alpha;&#943;&epsilon;&sigmaf;</u> <u>&epsilon;&iota;&delta;&#942;&sigma;&epsilon;&iota;&sigmaf; &sigma;&#942;&mu;&epsilon;&rho;&alpha;</u> 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 discovered to produce fair decisions that benefit the greater good, while remaining unbiased in the process. I also response to everyone's questions and concerns while problem solving when an unplanned event takes place. For instance, we'd a small crisis with flyers which were made to market an event we were having. Once 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 fresh email address with the typo included.

A huge section of owning a successful organization is beneficial and professional communication. Our main forum of communication between officers and the advisory board is emailing. I have learned how exactly to properly send and react to emails in an expert manner. My communication skills have improved substantially since being a leader of my chapter. I discovered to communicate concisely and format information in the most truly effective way. I are finding providing information in bullet lists is the best way to have members to see messages fully. All of our officers must hold team meetings and get reports of progress in the various areas on their team. Officers are accountable for 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 dealing with others.

One of the most valuable traits that I'm still learning through my presidency, is getting confident with hard conversations. I work closely with our Director of Standards and Ethics to be sure our members are holding themselves to the high ideals and values. If someone is falling behind, it is our job to own conversations using them about why that is happening and what we are able to do to be sure it doesn't happen again. These tough conversations become even tougher when remembering that the members of our chapter are also 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 a lot more to supply than the social aspect of the organization, and can truly prepare adults to join the professional world. Through developing members personally, and developing officers professionally, Greek organizations could offer life-changing collegiate experiences that can't be found elsewhere.

## About the Author

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