

## Greek Life Leaders: Operating the Supreme Company

Many may only see collegiate Greek life as a cultural group who hides their partying behind community service hours and charitable donations. However, I would like to challenge that stereotype by focusing on the professional development and self-improvement opportunity that is presented to Greek life members - especially those who 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 small business first, and [τ&α](#): [τ&ε&λ&ε&υ&τ&α&#943&α&ν&#941&α](#): [τ&ω&ν](#): [ε&ι&δ&#942&σ&ε&ω&ν](#): [σ&#942&μ&ε&ρ&α](#): a socialite second to be able to be successful. I want to point out some key concepts that report the relation between Greek organizations and businesses.

Greek organizations:

- . Divide officers into teams to work with specific areas 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 up their members to and gear their brand
- . Must follow rules from, and are accountable to, their national headquarters
- . Have insurance to cover their organization and its members, along with many policies and procedures in place for holding events

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

As president, I see all sides of running a Greek organization and must help every officer no real matter what team her position is just a part of. My days are full of constantly making decisions and weighing the consequences. I discovered to create 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 example, we had a tiny crisis with flyers that have been made to promote an event we were having. Once they came in, we noticed the contact email on the flyers was spelled wrong. After some deliberation, we decided to utilize the flyers we had and made a brand new email with the typo included.

A huge section of running 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 to properly send and answer emails in an expert manner. My communication skills have improved substantially since being fully a leader of my chapter. I have discovered to communicate concisely and format information in the most truly effective way. I have found providing information in bullet lists is the greatest way to obtain members to learn messages fully. All of our officers must hold team meetings and get reports of progress in the various areas on their team. Officers are responsible for organizing their particular meetings and taking minutes to record what 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 your Director of Standards and Ethics to be sure our members are holding themselves to our high ideals and values. When someone is falling behind, it's our job to possess conversations using them about why this is happening and what we can 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'm learning to have these hard conversations while residing in control of myself and the conversation.

Greek life has so much more to supply than the social part of the business, and can truly prepare teenagers to participate the professional world. Through developing members personally, and developing officers professionally, Greek organizations can provide life-changing collegiate experiences that can't be found elsewhere.

## About the Author

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