## Greek Life Leaders: Working Final 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 want to challenge that stereotype by emphasizing the professional development and self-improvement opportunity that's 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 keep a well-balanced, structured, and involved organization.

Fraternities and sororities must operate as a small business first, and a <u>&tau:&#943;&tau:&lambda;&omicron;&upsilon;&sigmaf;</u> <u>&epsilon;&iota;&delta;&#942;&sigma;&epsilon;&omega;&nu; &tau;&eta;&sigmaf; &eta;&mu;&#941;&rho;&alpha;&sigmaf;</u> socialite second in order 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 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 up 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, as well as many policies and procedures in area for holding events

These are just a couple points that report 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 matter what team her position is really a part of. My days are filled with constantly making decisions and weighing the consequences. I discovered to create fair decisions that benefit the more 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'd a small crisis with flyers that have been made to market an event we were having. When they came in, we noticed the contact email on the flyers was spelled wrong. After some deliberation, we made a decision to utilize the flyers we'd and made a fresh email address with the typo included.

An enormous part of managing a successful organization is effective and professional communication. Our main forum of communication between officers and the advisory board is emailing. I discovered how exactly to properly send and answer emails in an expert manner. My communication skills have improved substantially since being truly a leader of my chapter. I have learned to communicate concisely and format information in the utmost effective way. I have found providing information in bullet lists is the better way to have members to see messages fully. All of our officers must hold team meetings and get reports of progress in different areas on the team. Officers are responsible for organizing their very own meetings and taking minutes to record what was discussed. Greek organizations teach members to effectively and professionally communicate through emailing, holding meetings, and working together with others.

One of the very valuable traits that I am still learning through my presidency, is how to get confident with hard conversations. I work closely with your Director of Standards and Ethics to be sure our members are holding themselves to your high ideals and values. If someone is falling behind, it's our job to possess conversations with them about why this is happening and what we can do to ensure it does not 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 staying in control of myself and the conversation.

Greek life has a lot more to offer compared to social facet of the organization, and can truly prepare teenagers to participate the professional world. Through developing members personally, and developing officers professionally, Greek organizations will offer life-changing collegiate experiences that can't be found elsewhere.

## About the Author

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