

## Greek Living Leaders: Operating the Supreme 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 would like to challenge that stereotype by focusing on the professional development and self-improvement opportunity that's 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 keep up a well-balanced, structured, and involved organization.

Fraternities and sororities must operate as a small business first, and a [&kappa;&omicron;&rho;&upsilon;&phi;&alpha;&#943;&epsilon;&sigma;f:&epsilon;&iota;&delta;&#942;&sigma;&epsilon;&iota;&sigma;f:&sigma;&#942;&mu;&epsilon;&rho;&alpha;](#) socialite second in order to be successful. I would like 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 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 keep 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, in addition to many policies and procedures in area for holding events

These are just a couple of points that show how Greek organizations are ran as the greatest business, combining friendship with professionalism and offering members a good opportunity for personal development.

As president, I see all sides of managing 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 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. As an example, we'd a tiny crisis with flyers which were 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 use the flyers we'd and made a fresh email with the typo included.

A huge element of running a successful organization is effective and professional communication. Our main forum of communication between officers and the advisory board is emailing. I discovered how to properly send and react to emails in a professional 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 effective way. I have found providing information in bullet lists is the better way to get members to read 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 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 with others.

One of the very valuable traits that I am still learning through my presidency, is getting comfortable with hard conversations. I work closely with our Director of Standards and Ethics to ensure our members are holding themselves to your 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 are able to do to ensure it generally 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'm understanding how to have these hard conversations while remaining in control of myself and the conversation.

Greek life has much more to offer compared to social part of the corporation, and can truly prepare young adults to become listed on 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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