

Greek Life Leaders: Running the 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 focusing on 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 assist other officers to keep a well-balanced, structured, and involved organization.

Fraternities and sororities must operate as a business first, and a [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;](#) socialite second in order to be successful. I would really 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 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 hold 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, in addition to many policies and procedures in area for holding events

They're just a couple of points that show how Greek organizations are ran as the greatest 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 a part of. My days are full of constantly making decisions and weighing the consequences. I have learned to produce fair decisions that benefit the greater good, while remaining unbiased in the process. I also reply to everyone's questions and concerns while problem solving when an unplanned event takes place. For instance, we had a tiny crisis with flyers that were 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 use the flyers we had and made a new email address with the typo included.

A massive section of managing a successful organization is beneficial and professional communication. Our main forum of communication between officers and the advisory board is emailing. I have learned just how to properly send and respond to emails in a professional 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 top way. I am finding providing information in bullet lists is the better way to have members to see 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 what was discussed. Greek organizations teach members to effectively and professionally communicate through emailing, holding meetings, and working together with others.

One of the most valuable traits that I'm still learning through my presidency, is ways to get comfortable with hard conversations. I work closely with this Director of Standards and Ethics to make sure our members are holding themselves to our high ideals and values. When someone is falling behind, it is our job to own conversations with them about why this is happening and what we can do to make sure 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'm learning how to have these hard conversations while staying in control of myself and the conversation.

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

About the Author

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