



Fraternity and Sorority Chapter Excellence Plan

“There is nothing on a university campus that presents as significant an opportunity for leadership development, character formation, and the cultivation of skills that will be important in career advancement as does membership and active participation in college fraternal organizations.”

Former Chancellor of East Carolina University, William V. Muse

Introduction

In order to implement positive change in the Greek Community and for the University to pledge its support for each chapter, all fraternities and sororities must provide evidence on an annual basis that they meet reasonable expectations. These expectations were identified by the Greek Life Task Force (2006), a committee of over 60 faculty, staff, students, and inter/national representatives, and is supplemented by the Greek Relationship Statement, signed and approved by Greek chapters in 1998.

WPI Relationship Statement

The WPI Relationship Statement is as follows:

The relationship between WPI and the fraternity and sorority system is one of mutual respect, cooperation, understanding and trust. This trust is based on mutual goals, the expectations of WPI, the Community, the Greek membership and the responsibilities of each in this relationship.

WPI has the obligation to:

- *continue its commitment to foster the Greek system;*
- *provide staff, leadership training and educational programming and the necessary funding for such endeavors;*
- *to advocate on behalf of the Greek community as a liaison between internal and external constituencies;*
- *provide assistance and training for the self governance system; and*
- *provide a system of judicial review for cases which IFC and Panhellenic feel is inappropriate for their disposition & provide a system of judicial review for offenses that might lead to suspension or revocation of University recognition.*

The fraternities and sororities have an obligation to:

- *maintain a strong scholastic emphasis which includes attending and participating in educational programming sponsored by the University;*
- *respect the rights of the campus community and the neighborhood;*
- *comply with the rules of conduct included in the Campus Code and the policies that govern the Greek system;*
- *minimize the risk of liability and harm to people and property and maintain an accountability for actions of the chapter;*
- *ensure sound new member and initiation practices;*
- *support the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils and maintain a national affiliation in good standing;*
- *maintain an active relationship with an advisory person or committee such as chapter advisors or house corporations; and*
- *participate in philanthropic activities;*

To aid each chapter in living up to its ideals as well as those of the University, each chapter should conduct an annual self evaluation and planning program. Criteria should include:

- *demonstrated support for the Academic Mission of WPI;*
- *demonstration of respect and responsibility toward neighbors;*
- *avoidance of situations which do not conform to all applicable laws of conduct including hazing and alcohol and drug abuse;*
- *a knowledge of insurance and liability issues and the responsibility to minimize the risk of liabilities including the maintenance of a safe and clean habitat that conforms to building codes; and*
- *abiding by reasonable and safe standards for social events.*

Support for NIC and NPC Expectations

WPI embraces the philosophy, as expressed in the joint statement of AFA, FEA, NIC, and NPC, that “the host institution and general fraternity share the responsibility to do everything possible to encourage high performance....There is a shared responsibility to take cooperative, constructive action designed to improve or change the fraternity experience...” (AFA, 1997, p. 21-3). WPI also recognizes that “a thriving Greek community can enhance student learning and leadership, build strong ties between the institution and its future alumni, and develop well-rounded students who value community and



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citizenship. The ability of higher education and fraternal headquarters to hold Greek communities accountable to their stated values can positively transform the student culture” (Collegiate Greek Community Task Force, 2005, p. 2).

The Chapter Excellence Annual Report also supports NIC expectations established in the *Call for Values Congruence* (2005):

- Support for open expansion policies
- Support for open recruitment practices
- Insurance for all fraternities
- Academic support for the success of chapter members
- Minimum academic standards for joining
- Maximum 12 week new member programs
- Effective enforced risk management policies
- Alcohol free recruitment activities
- Alcohol free new member programs
- Ritual education
- Educational programming
- Active Faculty Advisors
- Leadership development programs
- Campus assistance with financial management

WPI also supports NPC Standards established as part of the *Call for Values Congruence* (2005):

- Support for academic development
- Values based education
- Educational programming
- Leadership development
- Supporting a culture that promotes respect and dignity for all members
- Developing citizenship through service and outreach

WPI Service and Support for Fraternities and Sororities

To support the efforts of our chapters and to enable their ongoing success, Worcester Polytechnic Institute will provide the following services and support to chapters:

Staff Advising: Each chapter will have the opportunity for individualized assistance from Campus Center and Student Activities staff members to assist with strategic planning, recruitment, new member education, advisor training, leadership development, and risk management.

Programming: The University will assist chapters in identifying educational opportunities that meet established programming requirements.

Designated Advisory Support: Staff members will meet with chapter leadership at least once per term to provide support and assistance where needed.

Marketing and External Relations: Greek Life Programs will assist in the development of publications and press initiatives that can be distributed to potential new members, parents, alumni, and other community members.

University Facilities: Each chapter will be eligible to reserve space for events, programs, and functions.

Financial Accounts: Each chapter will be eligible to establish an account with which to manage chapter funds.

Directions

The Chapter Excellence Annual Plan is designed to serve several purposes:

- to assist chapters in making positive progress in meeting organizational expectations
- to receive input from various stakeholders such as Inter/national organizations and advisors;
- and to identify areas of strength and areas of improvement in order to improve your chapter.

The following directions will aid your chapter in understanding and correctly completing the plan.

- All materials must be submitted to the Campus Center and Student Activities Department, Attn: Associate Director of Student Activities and Greek Life Programs
- Work with your chapter to identify goals and tasks associated with those goals. In creating goals, it is important to remember that goals should be S-M-A-R-T:
 - S- Specific
 - M- Measurable
 - A- Achievable
 - R- Realistic
 - T- Timebound
- It is encouraged for you to copy all the materials you submit for your chapter records. These will become important for officer transition and in tracking chapter history. Please also share this information with advisors and your inter/national headquarters. You will need the goals you identify in your Chapter Plan to complete the Annual Report at the end of the year.
- Upon completion, the chapter leadership will meet with the Associate Director of Student Activities and Greek Life Programs to review the plan.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Emily Perlow, Associate Director of Greek Life Programs, at 508.831.5291 or eperlow@wpi.edu.



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Chapter Excellence Plan**

Fraternity/Sorority Name: _____

Chapter Goals

With your chapter, identify three major goals to accomplish in the coming year. In creating goals, it is important to remember that goals should be S-M-A-R-T:

S- Specific M- Measurable A- Achievable R- Realistic T- Timebound

Goal #1		
	Specific tasks to accomplish your goal	Who Responsible
	1.)	
	2.)	
	3.)	
	4.)	
	5.)	

Goal #2		
	Specific tasks to accomplish your goal	Who Responsible
	1.)	
	2.)	
	3.)	
	4.)	
	5.)	



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Goal #3		
	Specific tasks to accomplish your goal	Who Responsible
1.)		
2.)		
3.)		
4.)		
5.)		

I support the goals established by the chapter for the 2010-2011 year and will work with the chapter to make progress toward achieving these goals. I understand the expectations toward which all WPI chapters should strive and will work diligently to make progress in each area.

Chapter President Name

Chapter President Signature

Chapter Advisor Name

Chapter Advisor Signature

Faculty Advisor Name

Faculty Advisor Signature