



GREEK ALUMNI COUNCIL

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Minutes

Welcome – Tim Strobl, acting chair

Introductions by attendees:

Attending:

Tim Strobl	Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Paula Mansfield	Chi Omega
Kalyn Catlett	Chi Omega
Aleece McKnight	Delta Sigma Theta
Arnia Steele	Delta Sigma Theta
Jasmine Alston	Delta Sigma Theta
Chuck Graves	Beta Theta Pi
Amber Hulseley	Zeta Tau Alpha
Kim Godwin	Delta Zeta
Curt Selmon	Alpha Phi Alpha
James Mason	Alpha Phi Alpha
Tony Beard	Alpha Phi Alpha
Karlton Davidson	Omega Psi Phi
Nicole Talley	Sigma Gamma Rho
Zachery Talley	Iota Phi Theta
Rob Janson	Sigma Chi
Erin Abernathy	Zeta Phi Beta
Simmi Monwata	Zeta Phi Beta
Christian Watson	Phi Beta Sigma

Representing MTSU:

Dr. Sidney McPhee ($\Phi\text{B}\Sigma$), President

Andrew Oppmann, Vice-President Marketing and Communications

Dr. Debra Sells, Vice-President Student Affairs
Dr. Danny Kelley (ΦΚΤ), Assistant Vice-President Student Life
Leslie Merritt (ΚΔ), Director Fraternity and Sorority Life
Joe Bales (FarmHouse), Vice-President University Advancement
Michelle Stepp (ΣΚ), Associate Director Alumni Relations

1. Review of initial top priorities
 - a. Facility availability and cost
 - i. Several in the council expressed that there are still concerns in this area. And, although communication around this topic has improved, there is still need for continued messaging about the availability, fees and group responsibilities for facility use on campus. In order to promote a thriving campus life, facility use is critical to Greek groups on campus.
 - ii. There was also a mention about the consistency of fees and requirements for staffing for different groups.
 - b. Re-establishment of fraternities and sororities not currently recognized on campus
 - i. Since the council formed, a status grid is now available on the FSL website. While some are currently eligible to return they have chosen to delay that choice.
 - ii. Omega Psi Phi has been granted approval to return to active status this coming Fall 2016.
 - c. Recruitment and retention of members
 - i. Council is interested in new ideas from Merritt promoting fun atmosphere among all Greeks with a collaborative approach.
 - ii. Information as to access to activity fee resources was asked.
 - iii. There was mention that there have been cases when new members had to make a choice to stay in Greek Life versus participation in a varsity sport. It is noted that while the importance of dedication to the responsibilities of being a student athlete can be paramount to a student's college

education they shouldn't be prohibited from also becoming a member of a fraternity or sorority especially when the fraternity/sorority make accommodations.

- d. Understanding of how decisions and policies that affect Greek Life are made and communicated to both the collegiate and alumni members
 - i. The escalation path is unclear by the council and we anticipate more clarity as Merritt seasons in her role.
 - ii. Council would like to see increased communication from the FSL office. The weekly email update "This Week in Fraternity/Sorority Life" is a positive example.
2. Suggestions for new priorities
 - a. Not discussed in the interest of time
3. Adoption of By-Laws
 - a. Healthy discussion of by-laws and a few changes recommended
 - i. Change name of the council to "Fraternity and Sorority Alumni Council" to provide consistency with the current name of the office on campus – Fraternity & Sorority Life
 - ii. Revise the composition of Ex-officio membership on the council to only include the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life and a Representative for the University President such as the Director of Strategic Partnerships, or their designees. Ex-officio members will be non-voting.
 - iii. Number of meetings per year may remain semi-annually, but it was noted that special meetings may still be called when necessary.
 - iv. Revised by-laws will be distributed to the entire membership with a call for a vote. No response will be considered a vote for approval.
4. Leadership Election
 - a. Deferred to next meeting

MTSU President Sidney McPhee – address highlights:

- Shared complete support of Greek life on MTSU's campus
- Zero tolerance for any organization that puts the university in jeopardy and all organizations must act in ways that reflect university values
- Suggested moving forward and not chasing ghosts of the past. Greek alumni should try to educate others and refute information that they know is factually incorrect. There is much work to be done to improve the Greek system to a vibrant, healthy environment.
- Steps have been taken to enhance support of the Greek system by President McPhee's office
 - Upgrading the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life's position.
 - Hiring a new coordinator.
 - Hiring a high level executive for university partnerships and stakeholder groups. Paula Mansfield (ΧΩ) will assume this position and replace Andrew Oppmann as the President's liaison to the council.
- Greek Life is an important component to attracting the best and the brightest students to MTSU and remains a part of the university's strategic plan.

Leslie Merritt – Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life's presentation

- Powerpoint presentation was made that will be available on the MTSU FSL webpage for viewing. Highlighted during the presentation were
 - Dyad Assessment
 - IMPACT
 - Advisor's Summit
 - FSL Awards
 - This Week in FSL
 - Housing Conversations
- Special mention was made of future initiatives that included
 - Transfer CUSTOMS
 - Connection Point Events that will include three specific event points for FSL recruitment this Fall

- Recruitment Meet and Greets that may include varsity athletic teams
- Step Show return.