

Report of the Student Organization Review Committee (SORC)

September 2018

Description

The Student Organization Review Committee (SORC) was created by a subcommittee of the Charter Committee for Building Social Community at Trinity College and was first convened in December 2013. SORC is composed of two students, two faculty members, and one staff member. The committee currently meets twice per semester. The purpose of this report is to describe the work of SORC during the 2017-2018 academic year. This document will describe the annual review process, provide an update on the work of the Committee, and conclude with recommendations regarding the work of SORC.

Purpose

SORC annually reviews selective social organizations to assess progress toward compliance with the standards set by the Charter Committee's subcommittee. Selective social organizations are defined as all social organizations with a dedicated facility (regardless of ownership), selective membership, and/or initiation process. These include Greek Letter Organizations, theme houses, and cultural houses. SORC is not a disciplinary body. Rather, the committee determines whether an organization has met the standards set by the College. The committee also provides constructive feedback to each organization with suggestions for improvement during the next review period.

Reporting Process

For the annual review, each organization is provided a form or "report" with the following prompts:

- What is the event or accomplishment through which your organization contributed most to the campus or broader community?
- Please connect your organization's values to the new mission statement of the college.
Engage. Connect. Transform.
As the preeminent liberal arts college in an urban setting, Trinity College prepares students to be bold, independent thinkers who lead transformative lives.
- Please List Community Service Projects your organization participated in.
- Please list initiatives you have taken to enrich the intellectual and/or community life of Trinity.
- Please list programs or events your organization has held or co-sponsored that fostered interaction between your membership and other groups on campus.
- Please describe how your organization has promoted inclusivity and diversity.
- Please describe efforts your organization has done to enhance understanding of Title IX policies.
- Please list workshops, leadership trainings, conferences and other educational sessions attended by your executive board and/or members.

- Please list offices or leadership positions members of your organization hold in other clubs, teams or organizations and any awards, accolades, or noteworthy accomplishments you would like SORC to know about.

The questions/prompts correspond to requirements detailed in the Student Organization Procedures and Guidelines from the Student Handbook. The organizations also are required to attach rosters and to have the organization's adviser sign (or acknowledge) receipt of the report. The committee then reviews the reports and offers constructive feedback to each organization. Each group receives an individual communication that addresses any concerns raised by or deficiencies apparent in the report.

Overview

SORC has oversight of the following student organizations:

Greek-Letter Organizations: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Chi Rho, Alpha Delta Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Cleo Society of Alpha Chi, IVY Society, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Kappa Sigma, Latino America Unida, Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity, Inc., Pi Kappa Alpha, Psi Upsilon, St. Anthony Hall, the Stella Society, and Zeta Omega Eta.

Cultural Organizations: ASAA, UMOJA House, Bayt Al Salaam – House of Peace, La Eracra-La Voz Latina

Social Houses: The Mill, International House, PRAXIS, Hillel House, The Fred, TREEhouse, Interfaith House

In the Fall of 2016, under the newly approved Greek Letter Chapter Recognition Policy, three groups of students who approached Joe DiChristina, Dean of Campus Life and Vice President of Student Affairs, and Kathryn Wojcik, Director of Campus Life, with requests for new Greek Letter Organizations. Two groups were interested in starting new sororities while one group wanted to start a new fraternity. A local sorority, The Stella Society, and multicultural fraternity, Latino America Unida, Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity, Inc., were formed as a response to the growing need to diversity Greek Life on campus and create equal opportunities for all students to join an organization. A national sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, began their establishment process in the Fall of 2017, holding a successful recruitment to extend 55 bids to new members and build their new chapter on campus. For the Fall of 2018, a Latina sorority, Lambda Pi Upsilon Sorority, Latinas Poderosas Unidas, Inc., will begin their establishment process on campus.

The year was also marked by changes in trainings to promote safety, awareness, and an overall understanding of risk management efforts. All new members, upon receiving a bid to a Greek Letter Organization, are required to attend a day-long training for Bystander Intervention and TIPS Training, both of which empower students to intervene in potentially harmful situations involving violence and alcohol, respectively. Since the implementation of this mandatory training that has occurred each semester, over 300 new members in Greek Life have been successfully trained in both of these competencies.

In addition, given the rising trends in hazing nationally, a mandatory anti-hazing curriculum was added to the new member education process for all Presidents and New Member Educators. In addition to submitting a new member plan detailing each chapter's 10-day education period and a training workshop on hazing, leaders were required to complete two online modules that further explained anti-hazing efforts.

GPA Requirements

Selective social organizations whose membership does not renew annually are required to maintain a collective grade point average of 3.0 or above. The only social houses currently falling into this category are the Greek Letter Organizations. Please see the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 grade reports below:

Chapter GPA	Fall 2017 Term GPA	Spring 2018 Term GPA
Alpha Chi Omega	3.56	3.45
Alpha Chi Rho	3.26	3.22
Alpha Delta Phi	3.31	3.11
Alpha Epsilon Pi	3.14	3.13
Cleo of AX	3.59	3.53
IVY Society	3.49	3.40
Kappa Sigma	3.34	3.24
Kappa Kappa Gamma	3.47	3.40
Lambda Alpha Upsilon	2.75	3.06
Pi Kappa Alpha	3.49	3.24
Psi Upsilon	3.49	3.19
Stella Society	3.51	3.44
St. Anthony Hall	3.26	3.18
Zeta Omega Eta	3.07	3.265
All Fraternity GPA	3.29	3.21
All Sorority GPA	3.42	3.40
All Greek GPA	3.34	3.28
All Male (non-Greek)	3.12	3.14
All Female (non-Greek)	3.37	3.38
All University (non-Greek)	3.25	3.26

Annual Review 2017-2018

This year marked the 5th annual review period for the selective social organizations. The annual review is an opportunity for the organizations to reflect on their accomplishments and report to the College their activities in various categories. Of particular interest are three categories: community service, intellectual and community life, and collaborative programming.

- **Community Service:** The social, cultural, and Greek houses are expected to engage in service to the community both on campus and in the greater Hartford area. Some service events are campus-wide and involve all social houses; others service events are developed and completed by the chapters alone. Collectively, the social houses participated in **112 (previous year:84)** community service events. This number includes organizational participation in events involving multiple organizations.

- **Intellectual and Community Life:** The social, cultural, and Greek houses are expected to produce and support programs that enhance the life of the College. These are programs that fall outside the usual social programming and can include intellectual programs and other community events. Collectively, the organizations participated in **89 (previous year: 73)** events designed to enhance the intellectual and community life of the College. This number includes organizational participation in events involving multiple organizations.
- **Collaborative Programming:** In an effort to foster a more inclusive social environment on campus, the social houses are expected to collaborate with other organizations on programs. These programs can be social, cultural, or intellectual. While primarily social, the goal of the collaborative programming is to bring students together who may not normally associate socially at the College. The social, cultural, and Greek houses participated in **91 (previous year: 83)** collaborative programs. This number includes organizational participation in events involving multiple organizations.

Overall, there was significant effort to collaborate with organizations beyond the social, cultural, or Greek organization lines. Groups that generally had not interacted socially in the past paired for programming and held a number of successful events that were impactful for both house leaders and students in attendance. All groups across the board - social, cultural and Greek organizations – have made significant strides to enhance their understanding of Title IX policies and Bystander efforts. However, all groups did receive a recommendation from the Committee to increase education in this area.

Recommendations

With the elimination of the co-ed mandate in 2015, the College has an opportunity to use the Committee differently and maximize the Committee as a resource. The following recommendations should be considered moving forward.

- **Greek Life program quality assessment:** 2018 marks the fourth year that the Greek Life program has had a full-time advisor. The program would benefit from a comprehensive review and assessment to guide the next phase of development. This would include an opportunity for students participating in Greek Life to provide feedback on the quality of their Greek experience.
- **Programming Board for House Leaders:** In meeting with students over the past year, one noteworthy idea is to develop a programming board for house leaders to share ideas on programming efforts, seek room for collaboration, and create an effort to support each other's events by not programming over one another.
- **Title IX Understanding:** While all groups made an effort in this area, there is still room for further education of all members within the organizations. Whether mandating Bystander Training or meetings with the Title IX Coordinator, a curriculum should be recommended by the Committee for students in this area to increase their knowledge of policies and intervention strategies. Update: As of September 2018, the Director of Campus Life has contracted with a consultant to work with organizations regarding their responsibility to uphold all policies that prohibit sexual harassment and discrimination. Equally important, the organizations will engage in conversations in order to implement programs/practices designed to eliminate and prevent all forms of sexual misconduct.

Conclusion

Overall, the 2017-2018 SORC evaluation annual review served as an opportunity for the organizations to reflect on their accomplishments and to report to the College their activities in various categories. Of particular interest are three categories: Title IX programming and understanding, intellectual and community life, and

collaborative programming. The Committee was pleased to see significant transformations in the community with increased collaborative programming across all organizations, enhanced understandings of bystander and Title IX efforts, and developing programs off of the need to do further community outreach across Trinity's campus.