

Report of the Student Organization Review Committee (SORC) August 2019

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 2018-2019 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.; Lambda Pi Upsilon Sorority, Latinas Poderosas Unidas, Inc.; Pi Kappa Alpha; Psi Upsilon; St. Anthony Hall; and the Stella Society.

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, groups of students were able to approach 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. The following organizations have since been approved under this new policy:

- The Stella Society – Local Sorority – Fall 2016
- Latino America Unida, Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity, Inc., - National Fraternity – Fall 2016
- Alpha Chi Omega – National Sorority – Fall 2017
- Lambda Pi Upsilon Sorority, Latinas Poderosas Unidas, Inc., - National Sorority – Spring 2018

The year was also marked by efforts to increase student knowledge around Title IX and sexual assault prevention. Following the previous review period, it was evident there was a need to do some education on these topics. Kathryn Wojcik, Director of Campus Life, partnered with Judy Kalisker, a lawyer and Title IX consultant from Principal Compliance Plus, to develop a series of workshops for each of the Greek letter organizations through the fall semester. Each chapter held an individual meeting with Judy to not only review policies but also ask imperative questions to help deepen the understanding of the role they play in sexual assault prevention. The Title IX workshops were attended by over 250 members of Greek Life and were well received. Students were able to effectively identify ways to create safe spaces within their organizations, became more knowledgeable about resources on campus, and felt empowered as leaders to remain at the forefront of this prevention work.

For the upcoming review period, these workshops would like to be extended to social and cultural organizations. In addition, Greek organizations will be asked to followup on these conversations.

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 2018 and Spring 2019 grade reports below:

Chapter GPA	Fall 2018 Term GPA	Spring 2019 Term GPA
Alpha Chi Omega	3.447	3.478
Alpha Chi Rho	3.267	3.281
Alpha Delta Phi	3.071	3.129
Alpha Epsilon Pi	3.041	3.146
Cleo of AX	3.497	3.507
IVY Society	3.444	3.479
Kappa Sigma	3.219	3.258
Kappa Kappa Gamma	3.354	3.398
Lambda Alpha Upsilon	2.731	3.137
Lambda Pi Upsilon	N/A	2.836
Pi Kappa Alpha	3.286	3.314
Psi Upsilon	3.184	3.204
Stella Society	3.472	3.502
St. Anthony Hall	3.151	3.165
All Fraternity GPA	3.161	3.227
All Sorority GPA	3.429	3.448
All Greek GPA	3.295	3.334
All Male (non-Greek)	3.158	3.186
All Female (non-Greek)	3.399	3.401
All University (non-Greek)	3.281	3.293

Annual Review 2018-2019

This year marked the 6th 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 **62** 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 **61** 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 **89** 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.
- **Reassess Annual Evaluation Procedures:** The Committee plans to meet this upcoming academic year to review our process, re-develop some of the questions, and strategize ways to hold groups accountable to complete more thorough reports.

Conclusion

Overall, the 2018-2019 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 that support further community outreach across Trinity's campus. However, there was a decrease in the number of community service and intellectual life programs, which The Committee would like to see more of a focus on for the upcoming year.