

THE GREEK ALUMNI CONNECTION

STUDENT AFFAIRS

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

WINTER 2017

GREEK ADVISOR'S CORNER

Well, we've made it through another semester!



Fall 2016 was a good semester for the Greek Community. Two major accomplishments include the significant attempt to open our U-Lead Conference, a onetime, on-campus leadership conference, to the wider student body. The event was moved from a weekend to mid-week, and it was done around the dinner hour, including an etiquette dinner open to any attendee. We look forward to continuing to offer the opportunity to the student body.

Another accomplishment is the development of the Diversity and Outreach Committee. This student-led initiative is forming in the hopes of better reaching traditionally underrepresented students, helping them to see the value and relevance of the fraternity/sorority experience. Another opportunity this committee hopes to explore is the development of partnerships with other groups on campus and in the community. The committee is still developing its plan of action, and we hope to see further results in the Spring.

This semester, sorority recruitment continued to be strong. Sorority membership for the semester was at 280, the highest it has been in at least 10 years, and this represents a nearly 11% growth in members from this time last year. Fraternity recruitment has not been as strong. The number of new members was down nearly 15%. According to final rosters, 59 new members were retained to the end of the semester, compared to 69 in Fall 2015. Fraternity membership is at 201. This represents a 9% decline from Fall 2015, when membership was at 221.

The chapters and governing councils are in a time of transition. Every chapter, and each council, has elected new leadership for 2017. We'll start off the Spring semester with a leadership retreat in January, and chapter leadership will hit the ground running.

In February, the Annual Dance Marathon event will be held, benefitting Children's Miracle Network. This year's goal is \$50,000. If you're interested in supporting the cause, please feel free to visit www.msudancemarathon.com.

To stay caught up on the happenings in the Greek Community, be sure to "Like" our Facebook page, "Maverick Greeks," and follow us on Twitter @MaverickGreeks! We can also be found on both Snapchat and Instagram.

GREEK HOUSING UPDATE

In the Spring/Summer 2016 issue of the Greek Alumni Newsletter, an update was given on the investigation into the possibility of Greek Housing or another physical presence on or near campus. Minnesota State University, Mankato retained a housing consultancy firm, Anderson-Strickler, to conduct focus groups and a written survey of both active and alumni Greek members. These information gathering methods were employed to gauge interest and desires for potential development of a physical presence for Greek Life. Results from the survey are now available.

The survey respondents consisted of 111 current sorority members, 74 current fraternity members, 85 alumnae sorority members, and 135 alumni fraternity members, for an overall total of 405 respondents. It was found that among fraternity alumni providing Greek Housing is "extremely important" (73%) and also the majority of all other groups found it to be either "extremely important" or "somewhat" important. The survey also presented a variety of housing types for respondents to view. The Greek Village Townhomes double occupancy seemed to be the overall most popular option. The cost difference between single and double occupancy may be the reason for this acceptable option. In this option each organization would be housed in separate buildings with various size houses. There would also be a chapter room and all the standard spaces in a traditional house along with green space for functions and parking.

A meeting was held on October 7, 2016 to discuss the survey results with various sorority and fraternity representatives as well as some University staff. At this meeting it was agreed upon the timeline for continued development of the potential development of a physical presence for Greek Life. For more information on survey results or meeting notes please visit www.mnsu.edu/student/greekalumni/taskforce.html.

The timeline is as follows:

- November 1 – Individual group interest expressed in participating in next planning stage
- December 1 – Draft of shared values and elements created
- January 20 – Feedback from draft collected
- February 1 – Revised draft of shared values and elements available
- March 1 – Share draft with President and Cabinet and receive feedback
- April 1 – Final report delivered

Share your stories!

We want to hear about your fond memories from being a member in the Greek community. Email your stories: student-affairs@mnsu.edu or visit: www.mnsu.edu/student/greekalumni/

www.maverickgreeks.com

Like Maverick Greeks on Facebook • 507-389-2121

Greek Community Mission Statement

The Fraternities and Sororities at Minnesota State University, Mankato take pride in serving the University and the greater Mankato area. We are a community of campus leaders committed to excellence in scholarship and to promoting dynamic personal growth of members, focusing on the development of experiential leadership and the fostering of lasting relationships.

Greek Community Core Values

- Leadership
- Friendship
- Scholarship
- Service



HELP SUPPORT THE MARIE BRUCE AWARD

The highest award a member of our community can receive is the Fraternity Man/Sorority Woman of the Year award. That award is named after Marie Bruce, our University's former Dean of Women. She was instrumental in developing Greek Life here, and it is she who was tasked with courting national organizations, encouraging them to establish chapters on our campus. Recipients of this award have been benefitting from an endowment that was established at the time of Marie Bruce's death. They have each received a \$250 scholarship. Unfortunately, the funds from interest earned on this endowment are no longer able to support the awarding of this scholarship. If you are interested in honoring Marie Bruce's legacy and helping us continue to honor the best our Greek Community has to offer, please consider a Gift to the Marie Bruce fund, which is administered by the Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation. Gifts may be made online at www.mnsu.edu/giving, or they may be sent to:

Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation
126 Alumni Foundation Center
Mankato, MN 56001

Please reference fund number 335020 when making your gift. There is an immediate need for donations that can be awarded from the fund annually. If you are interested in making a gift that would substantially increase the endowment and its interest-earning potential, please contact John Bulcock, Assistant Director of Student Activities for Greek Life, at john.bulcock@mnsu.edu or 507-389-6076.

Contact Us:

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