

MEETING WITH FSL PRESIDENTS

March 8, 2018

4:00-5:30 PM

FIU Personnel in attendance:

- Mark Rosenberg (President)
- Larry Lunsford (Vice President, Student Affairs)
- Breny DaParre Garcia (Associate Vice President, Institutional Relations)
- Anthony DeSantis (Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs)
- Chris Medrano (Associate Director, Campus Life)
- Vlad Charles (Assistant Director, Campus Life)
- Ayinde Cunningham (Graduate Assistant, Campus Life)

Three questions were posed to the group -

- How can current/incoming members re-commit themselves to FIU values in order to strengthen the Greek community?
- What changes - policy or structural - would you like the university to implement that would help strengthen the Greek community and help us reach a culture shift?
- What additional resources and/or support services would you like the Greek community (collegians, advisors, or alumni) to receive?

Dr. Rosenberg shared some opening remarks -

- Congratulations to those organizations that have been reinstated;
- Encouraged those organizations still seeking reinstatement to work with fellow presidents and FSL staff for assistance;
- Reminded everyone about the rules/restrictions for the remainder of Spring (i.e., no alcohol and no affiliation for the 3 suspended groups);
- Recommended that everyone review the new Student Code of Conduct by March 31 and submit feedback to codecomments@fiu.edu.

Their questions/recommendations/feedback were as follows -

- Are there any self-governance options for the four councils?
- There needs to be better follow-through on programming if the intention is to align education with FIU values. For example, Greeks 101 was canceled and not rescheduled.
- New member workshops should focus on FIU's values and expectations of the Greek community. Additionally, follow-up gatherings throughout members' time at FIU (e.g., semesterly, yearly, etc.) should be scheduled as a refresher.
 - These activities should be more intimate in nature (e.g., 30 people) as opposed to the large-scale lectures/workshops currently scheduled.

- Another president shared that new member programming is helpful, but continuous member refreshers are just as important. Engagement and education of members throughout their entire time at FIU can help with accountability.
- Set a calendar for FSL activities prior to the semester starts to avoid scheduling conflicts with chapter calendars. Many chapters approve their semester calendars during their first chapter meeting, but additional FSL activities are scheduled mid-semester and attendance requirements often negatively affect their chapter schedules/operations.
- NPHC hosts “NPHC 101” prior to the intake process commencing. Suggestion for other councils to host something similar, which may help in informing potential new members about the responsibilities and expectations of joining an organization.
 - Another president proposed creating a mandatory course to be completed by all potential new members in order to be eligible to sign up for recruitment (some universities have implemented this).
- Offer more team-building and discussion opportunities (e.g., ropes course, fireside chats, etc.) for members of the Greek community.
- Desire for better organization, specifically on the availability of and communication with FSL personnel.
- Streamline processes; unify standard for organizational requirements.
- Offer more networking time during FSL events (e.g., Greek Leadership Retreat). Session speakers/facilitators offer great information, but the opportunity to meet and learn from peers is needed. Presidents Roundtable meetings – for example – are helpful, but they would like time to collaborate on ideas and not just receive updates.
 - Another president shared that this will also help them speak to each other about issues, and avoid rumors. For example, during January, everyone seemed very united given that all presidents were going through the same pause process. But after Round 1 results were announced, there was an immediate divide between those groups that were reinstated and those that were not. The unity started to dissipate and rumors began circulating on why groups were not reinstated, which brought back a lot of the mistrust and competition.
 - Another president shared that candid conversations have been the most beneficial. At FSL events like the retreat, it was suggested that attendees sit by birthday month in one session and favorite color in another session (as examples) in order to force new interactions.
- Offer personalized risk prevention strategies for each organization (i.e., each chapter/council has their own specific definitions of and challenges with risky behavior).

- Another president shared concern about the staffing limitations to get something like that – and other items shared during the meeting – accomplished.
- What does the university plan to do about non-recognized groups like Kappa Sigma and those recently suspended? Understanding that there is freedom of association, some are still conducting meetings despite the university not recognizing them.
- Train students with the skills necessary to have difficult conversations. Without those tools, it is extremely daunting to raise issues of accountability – especially with other chapters.
 - Another president shared that they should not fear uncomfortable conversations.
 - Another president shared that they should handle the “small stuff” between presidents and keep the administration out of it.
 - Another president shared that most problems can be solved by the presidents knowing each other, but – as shared above – they need the time and space to get together.
- Revisit the repercussions of not attending FSL events. For example, sometimes chapters will take the fines only to avoid member burnout, but if specific event/meeting will affect chapter’s standing then they will attend.
- Need to better utilize advisors.
 - Another president suggested that there be a yearly training for advisors by FSL (one for new advisors, and a shorter one for returning advisors).
- Create targeted workshops/trainings for specific chapter leaders (e.g., chapter treasurers, member development chairs, etc.).
- Older members need to lead by example. New members need to see them not just in attendance but also engaged.
- Offer a transition training period (hosted by FSL, outside of normal chapter transition plans) for chapter presidents – one for Fall installations and one for Spring installations.
- Who could clarify questions related to the new Student Code of Conduct? Chapter leadership each has differing interpretations of certain sections and would like clarity.
- Chapters need to focus more on quality versus quantity. Who chapters recruit has tremendous effect on their success. Chapters should look for members that align with their and FIU’s values.
- Offer ongoing sexual assault prevention education, not just for new students through the MyFIU modules.
- Need help in improving inter- and intra- council communication and collaboration.
- For those chapters designated as “critical status”, what does support look like?

- Consolidate FSL programming throughout the year; too many mandatory events.
 - Another president recommended letting chapters open their events to other organizations – with FSL subsidizing some costs for added the participation. Many chapters are required to host events on similar topics as FSL programming (e.g, sexual assault prevention, drug abuse prevention, etc.) but their national offices do not count FSL-hosted activities. The duplication of activities creates member burnout, but the collaboration may be a win-win for the chapters and FSL.
- We need to ask ourselves “what are we doing wrong?” We need to be more introspective and not just ask what FIU can do for us.
- Improve communication sharing (e.g., best practices) across chapters and councils.
- Put pride aside and ask for help! We need to be accountable to make ourselves better.
- Require chapters to host one meeting per year where the same presentation is given to all members (topic up to FIU administration).
 - Another president recommended that if this were to happen that a university administrator should present as opposed to chapters presenting on FIU’s behalf and possibly miscommunicating the intent.
- During FSL events, take the lessons a step further. How can student apply what they learned?
 - Offer more experiential learning opportunities and scenario planning as part of those gatherings.
 - Create cross-council committees (e.g., sexual assault, tailgating, etc.) to help with peer education.
- There is a lack of representation on the FSL team – specifically NPHC. While the administration can sympathize, they cannot empathize.
- Bring back Greek Week.
- Will there be more advisors added to the FSL team?

Dr. Rosenberg closed out the meeting with a reminder about Spring Break safety.
(FSL followed up with an email to all chapter presidents and advisors.)