

## MEETING WITH MGC & NPHC PRESIDENTS

November 30, 2017 at 4:00pm

### Attendance

- Mark Rosenberg (President)
- Breny DaParre Garcia (Associate Vice President, Institutional Relations)
- Phylicia Kirk (NPHC Co-President + President, Sigma Gamma Rho)
- Olivia Bussey (NPHC Co-President; Sister of Sigma Gamma Rho)
- Tydreisha Lafontant (President, Alpha Kappa Alpha)
- David Bell (President, Alpha Phi Alpha)
- Ron Ulysse (President, Phi Beta Sigma)
- Troy Anderson (President, Iota Phi Theta)
- Annette Navarro (MGC President; Sister of Lambda Theta Alpha)
- Milhtian Cerda (President, Lambda Theta Alpha)
- Anthony Baez (President, Lambda Upsilon Lambda)
- Ana Marquez (President, Omega Phi Beta)
- Livan Gonzalez (President, Phi Iota Alpha)
- Alexandra Robles-Cruz (President, Sigma Lambda Gamma)

### Opening Comments

Dr. Rosenberg opened the meeting by explaining that he would not be doing his job as president if he doesn't pay attention, and felt it was important to meet with all four councils despite what is happening being isolated to a few groups.

He then opened the floor on how the university could help the Greek system be better. There was a lot of recycling of themes and returning to prior comments made, so instead of typing minutes chronologically, we have summarized the meeting by category.

### Is there a problem with the current Greek system?

- Yes, but the source currently is one council (alluding to IFC).
- Everyone is unfairly getting lumped in together.
- There is no equal accountability across organizations and councils. What one group gets sanctioned for, is not the same that another group will get. And repercussions of not meeting those sanctions is not equal across the board either.

### Cultural differences

- When NPHC has problems (i.e., suspended, expelled, etc.), other councils are not affected. Yet, now, IFC's issues are negatively affecting NPHC and MGC.
- MGC and NPHC groups have to work harder than PC and IFC to maintain their membership – especially at a place at FIU where PC and IFC groups are diverse

and students don't seek to join cultural groups like at other universities. A system-wide closure could kill membership for MGC and NPHC groups.

- There is a huge disconnect between PC/IFC groups and MGC/NPHC groups.
- Dr. Rosenberg posed the question: "If your organizations went away [at FIU], do you think PC or IFC would care?" The answer was a resounding NO.
- Dr. Rosenberg followed up with the opposite question: "If PC or IFC organizations went away, would MGC and NPHC survive [at FIU]?" The group was split on this one. Some felt that their sheer numbers do educate students that Greek Life does exist on campus and in turn helps promote the fact that other councils exist.
- Both councils would like to be highlighted by the university for the work they do in the community, not just for step shows.
- They would feel better about across-the-board punishments if there were also across-the-board accolades (i.e., PC and IFC organizations get more recognition on their achievements because they simply have more members and hence have a greater impact, but it should not take away the impact had by MGC and NPHC events).
- MGC and NPHC groups seem to be more focused on educational and member development activities, whereas PC and IFC groups are more concerned with fundraising and parties.

#### Administration has not communicated well

- One president shared that some members were asking "when is our meeting with the president?" after hearing that we met with PC and IFC leaderships. The president claimed that when raised with "the administration" no answers were provided.  
*[Note: We asked the president to clarify whom they define as "the administration" and they shared "the Greek Life advisors."]*
- Another president asked if PC and IFC received their own meetings with Dr. Rosenberg, why were MGC and NPHC meetings merged into one?
- After the aforementioned question was posed, it was evident that many in the room were unsure about what the facts were, so we took a pause in the meeting to go through the timetable of / purpose for all major meetings (with students, administration, BOG, etc.). After we went through it all, the group seemed to understand why this meeting was held last and thanked us for including them.
- Given what has happened with TKE, one president asked if the OOP and SCCR will communicate better (i.e., more proactively) about incidents. Dr. Rosenberg shared that he hopes to not micromanage the operations of units like SCCR, but he does expect more timely notification of major issues with and possible threats to the well-being of our community.

### What's next for FIU Greeks?

- Overall, they fear that Greek Life at FIU won't exist in 10 years.
- The creation of a united Greek Governing Council would not work. There are too many differences with organizations' recruitment and programming processes. *[Note: This was raised after Dr. Rosenberg asked why there were four separate councils.]*
- Dr. Garcia proposed that the return of a Greek Programming Board may help some of their concerns. One president responded that a similar idea is being considered - but noted that it may not solve the greater problem.
- Dr. Rosenberg shared the plan of a meeting in January where, at minimum, outgoing and incoming chapter/council presidents would meet with Dr. Rosenberg and other administrators about the future of the Greek system (an idea shared by the IFC presidents). Their requests for this meeting were as follows -
  - All councils to participate
  - Goals / topics for the meeting be shared in advance
  - Invite all members of the Greek community, but only presidents be allowed to speak (setup would be similar to a BOT full board meeting)