

# Student Life Committee

January 2017

Submitted by Dr. Elizabeth-Jane McGuire

1. Fr. Stack gave a brief overview of the role of our committee in relation to the University Council

- The Student Life committee is a place for student-related issues to surface and where they can be brought to the attention of the appropriate people as needed
- Kathy Byrnes is putting together a mission statement for our committee based on member input

2. CAT: hosting Merry Christmas Villanova week

3. Housing: Preparing freshmen and sophomores for next year's housing options

4. Greek Life: transitioning executive boards to new leadership; preparing registrations for spring recruitment

5. SGA: working with public safety on student awareness of transition to an armed police force; had a Town Hall with Fr. Peter

- key issues addressed were rising tuition costs,
- increasing diversity of student body,
- construction,
- the armed police force,
- student recreation and meeting spaces,
- student-township relations,
- and university communications with students

6. PanHell: also transitioning executive board leadership; women's recruitment process is well under way:

- 570 women met with their RC's (recruitment counselors); rush will be Jan. 11-16

7. An overview of sorority and fraternity recruitment was given

- Sororities have national quotas to meet as well as mutual selection;
  - all women meet all sororities;
  - every woman who is interested in being in a sorority can find a place in one if she is open to which one she is in;
  - 40-45% of women on campus are in a sorority
- Fraternities are permitted to recruit only as many members as they feel able to take;
  - previously men only rushed fraternities they were interested in;
  - now they have to meet all the fraternities at least once;
  - fewer men go into chapters as a result of the differences; 18% of men are involved
- Multicultural Greek organizations recruit differently:
  - prospective members seek out the sororities and fraternities, apply, and then go through a membership process;
  - some of these are co-ed
- In total, about 1/3 of undergraduate students are involved in Greek life

8. Greater emphasis on scholarship in Greek life

- Current average GPA of fraternities is 3.3
- They have raised the required GPA for fraternity and sorority recruits to 2.75 (up from 2.5 for women and 2.6 for men).

9. Recent changes to fraternity recruitment

- SAE has been removed from official status;

- any indication that they are still active "underground" should be reported to the IFC (Inter-Fraternity Council), Brooke (new head of Greek Life), and JJ in Student Life
- Membership education pilot program
  - Provides new members with older mentors in the chapter
  - Lets recruits know what acceptable behavior is (to prevent hazing)
  - Gives new members a place to speak out if there are problems or concerns with the pledging process

10. Further discussion of the fall community conversation

- Background: College Republicans invited Milo Yiannopoulos from Breitbart to speak without talking to Student Life first, and there was an initial, smaller conversation held
    - After this, they planned another conversation for after the election, thinking they would continue to have these from time to time
  - Suggestion to have a large group forum for students who support the Republican party (since the fall community conversation felt like one mostly directed to those who support the Democratic party)
  - Ideas for the spring semester:
    - Coffee and conversation in smaller groups
    - IGR courses focused on politics
    - Another larger community conversation that was clearly designed for students from all over the political spectrum
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