

Chi Psi Fraternity

Alpha Visitor/Leadership Consultant Report

Prepared by: Kyle Moen, I '02

Alpha: Zeta Delta (University of Illinois)

Dates: September 25th – September 28th

I. Meeting with Greek Advisor

Name/Title: There was no meeting with the Greek Advisor on this visit. Both he and his assistant were out of town. In a brief phone conversation Director of Greek Life Dan Bureau stated that Alpha Zeta Delta is doing very well as a Fraternity. He has been impressed with the leadership of the Alpha and with the Alpha's involvement on campus and in the community. Alpha Zeta Delta has had no risk management issues. With no major concerns, Mr. Bureau felt comfortable postponing a meeting until a later date.

Assessment of the Alpha in general: N/A

Assessment of the Alpha in comparison to other chapters on campus: N/A

Recommendations from Advisor: N/A

II. Membership/Recruitment

Retention of Members: Alpha Zeta Delta does well to retain its members.

Recruitment Dates: 8/26 – 9/21

Number of Pledges: 10

Recruitment Program: The University of Illinois follows an informal recruitment process where fraternities are encouraged to host events and invite prospect members to these events.

Attitude/Involvement towards Recruitment: The leadership of Alpha Zeta Delta characterized this semester's involvement in recruitment as moderate. The Rush Chairman did a poor job of communicating with the Brotherhood. The Alpha did not host its usual recruitment workshop before rush where they typically discuss the responsibilities of each Brother during recruitment as well as the Alpha's message during rush.

Recommendations: Not only does the Rush Chairman need to take more responsibility for communicating the recruitment schedule to the Alpha, but the #2 needs to do a better job of oversight. If there is a lack of communication the #2 should make the Rush Chairman aware of this and, if necessary, take over the job of communicating with the

Alpha. More planning should go into rush. With proper prior planning, many of the communication issues will take care of themselves.

III. Alpha Management/Leadership

Assessment: Alpha Zeta Delta has a quality group of natural leaders. Some concerns surround the future leadership of the Alpha. However, proper grooming by the current officers can help placate these anxieties.

Recommendations: The current officers need to groom future leaders. The Alpha should host a PLD following elections to help teach effective leadership techniques to the new leaders and to the future leaders of the Alpha.

IV. Finances

Is the budget set and followed?: Yes.

How does the Alpha collect A/Rs?: The Alpha has an electronic billing system. If Brothers do not pay their dues, they go before the Alpha's judicial board. This board consists of 9 Brothers headed by the #2. The board evaluates each case on an individual basis and sets penalties accordingly.

Does the Alpha owe money? To whom?: No.

Recommendations: Continue with current financial plan. Consider hard copies of the bills in addition to the electronic bills.

V. Scholarship

GPA (most recent two semesters): Fall 2002 - 2.945 Spring 2003 – 3.070

Study Atmosphere: The study atmosphere in the Lodge is good. Most Brothers study in their rooms or at one of the libraries on campus.

Recommendations: Alpha Zeta Delta needs to re-emphasize the importance of good academics. While their GPA is ranked in the top half of University of Illinois fraternities, it is still below the all-Greek and all-men's average. Each semester the Scholarship Chairman should have brothers fill out a GPA goal setting form. The #4 could evaluate a dues incentive for those brothers who achieve their academic goals. Additionally, the Alpha should continue to utilize its scholarship to recruit academically minded individuals.

VI. Lodge

Condition: The Lodge is in need of repair. The Corporation is beginning a campaign to renovate the building. Given its current physical condition, the Brothers do a good job of upkeep.

What is the Alpha's upkeep program?: The Lodge manager assigns weekly cleaning duties.

Recommendations: Continue with current upkeep program with the #2 increasing the accountability of the Lodge Manager.

VII. Community/Campus Involvement

Assessment: Alpha Zeta Delta is involved on campus and in the community. Many Brothers are involved in student activities and honor societies. The Alpha participates in almost all the Greek-based philanthropies on campus.

Recommendations: The Alpha should establish a reoccurring community service project. This could be reading to elementary kids or cleaning a local highway.

VIII. Risk Management

Assessment: Alpha Zeta Delta does well in following the National Risk Management Policies. A RMR was facilitated to reinforce the importance of proper risk management.

Recommendations: Continue with current risk management procedures. Participate in C.A.R.E. (Campus Acquaintance Rape Education) this fall. Make sure to have necessary attendance for insurance deduction.

IX. Alumni Relations

Relationship/attitudes the actives have with the Alumni: The Alpha is very impressed with the level of involvement by its Alumni. They entire brotherhood recognizes the importance of having strong alumni relations and is always excited to see Alumni visiting the Lodge.

Relationship/attitudes the actives have with the Corporation: The Alpha management team has been impressed with the work of its corporation. However, they find it difficult to relate to the Brothers of the Corporation. Because of this, communication is not as strong as it should be. Still, the Alpha is grateful for the work the Corporation has put into securing the current Lodge.

Recommendations: Continue with current alumni relations. The Alpha should host more alumni events to help establish a relationship with the alumni brothers (esp. those of the corporation). Additionally, the Alpha should continue to invite Alumni to initiation.

X. Alpha Morale

Gentlemanly Behavior: The Brothers of Alpha Zeta Delta are true Chi Psi gentlemen.

Spirit: The spirit of the Alpha is very high. Every Brother from the New Initiates to the Senior Brothers was excited for another year in the Lodge.

Unity: The unity of Alpha Zeta Delta is unparalleled on campus. Brothers were always found playing cards, tutoring one another, or walking to class together.

XI. Relationship with the National Fraternity

Alpha's feelings toward National/CO: The Alpha has a positive feeling about the Central Office and the National Fraternity. However, they do not like the Chi Psi website claiming it is poorly designed and hard to navigate.

Recommendations: Continue to communicate regularly with the Central Office. Participate in at least two of the Educational Programs offered by the NLTP this school year.

XII. Ritual/Traditions

Initiation Dates: December 5th and 6th

Assessment: Alpha Zeta Delta has a strong sense of Chi Psi and Alpha Zeta Delta Tradition.

Recommendations: Continue to stress the importance of Chi Psi and Alpha Zeta Delta tradition.

XIV. Overall Assessment of the Alpha

General: Alpha Zeta Delta is doing well at the University of Illinois. Academically there is room for improvement, but they are moving in a positive direction. Future renovations to the Lodge will make it a premier Fraternity building and help it compete structurally with other Greek letter societies on campus. With further involvement in student activities and in the community there is no reason why the Alpha cannot be a dominant Fraternity on campus.

Strengths of the Alpha:

- Alpha Management
- Unity of the Brotherhood
- Alumni Involvement / Alumni Corporation
- Campus / Community Involvement

- New Lodge and Plans for Renovations

Weaknesses of the Alpha:

- Academics
- Slow Collection of A/R

Short Term Plan:

- Increase GPA to all-men's average
- Participate in one all-Brother community service project
- Recruit an additional 9-11 men this spring
- Increase A/R collection
- Participate in two Educational Programs this year

Long Term Plan:

- Work with Corporation to complete renovations
- Be a leader in Academics within the Greek Community maintaining a GPA consistent with the top 5 fraternities on campus
- Create an Alpha Zeta Delta officer handbook similar to the national handbook to help standardize the roles of the officers