

# Chi Psi Fraternity

## Alpha Visitor/Leadership Consultant Report

Prepared by: Bill Bode, ΘΔ '01

Alpha: Zeta Delta (The University of Illinois)

Dates: 10/31/2001—11/4/2001

### I. Meeting with Greek Advisor

Name/Title: Lisa Ruster; Director of Greek Life

Assessment of the Alpha in general: Lisa said that the Alpha is improving in terms of membership and involvement at the University. She also said that the Alpha has poor grades and needs to improve. She is impressed with the Brothers that she knows and thinks that they have the potential to continue to grow and improve.

Assessment of the Alpha in comparison to other chapters on campus: Lisa said that the Alpha has worse grades than the majority of the fraternities on campus (below the All-Greek Average). The Alpha is also below average membership for fraternities on campus. Also, the Alpha has not had any behavioral violations from the University.

### II. Membership/Recruitment

Retention of Members: The Alpha has good retention of members. They have not lost any of their 9 pledges this year. Also, once pledges are initiated they remain active throughout their undergraduate years.

Recruitment Program: The Alpha recruits informally during the beginning of fall semester. They recruit with dry events such as bar-be-ques, paintball, and sporting events. They invite potential recruits over and once they are at the Lodge the Brothers focus on getting to know the potential recruits and making the potential feel comfortable with the Lodge. The Alpha also recruits through their scholarship program. They receive applications and interview the applicants for the scholarships and in the interview process; they encourage the applicants to rush the Alpha.

Attitude/Involvement towards Recruitment: The Alpha has a very positive attitude towards recruitment. Not only do they have a positive attitude, they are very motivated to expand their current membership and only recruit the best possible men.

Recommendations: The Alpha should have a membership of around 60-70 men, and they are very capable of achieving this goal. They seem to have an understanding of what are good recruitment events. The Alpha now needs to focus on using all the possible resources to find potential recruits such as Brothers going to their High Schools, using incoming freshmen lists provided by the IFC, and going to the dorms.

### III. Alpha Management/Leadership

Assessment: The Alpha has good leadership. The current leaders have been instrumental in raising the Alpha's membership to its current levels. They need to actively train the younger Brothers so that the younger Brothers will be able to take over and keep the Alpha expanding and improving when the current leaders graduate. The Alpha's biggest issue in reference to leadership is organization. Not all the Brothers knew when elections were going to be.

Recommendations: The Alpha should use an active email list (if they already do not). The Alpha's EC should meet before every meeting to make sure that all the leaders are on the same page. The Alpha should also post all minutes from the meetings. The Alpha's officers need to communicate better with each other and with the Alpha in general.

### IV. Finances

Is the budget set and followed?: Yes

Does the Alpha owe money? To whom?: No

Recommendations: Keep setting and following the budget. Recruit more men so that there will be more money in the budget for extracurricular activities.

### V. Scholarship

Study Atmosphere: The Alpha seems to have a good study atmosphere, but the Brothers still have a GPA below the All Men's and All Fraternity Average.

Recommendations: Recruit men that have good grades and that make school a priority. Strive to maintain a GPA that is above both the All Men's and All Fraternity Average.

### VI. Educational Programs

Recommendations from the Alpha: The Alpha has not had a PSD, PLD, or PCG in three years. The Alpha needs to have a PSD and an AMR this year. The Alpha specifically needs the AMR to focus on how to continue to improve their recruitment.

### VII. Lodge

Condition: The Lodge is in decent condition. The Brothers are beginning to take pride in the Lodge as they have lived there for three years now. However, the fact that they may lose this Lodge causes the Brothers not to take as good of care of the Lodge as they may if they knew they would keep it.

What is the Alpha's upkeep program?: The Alpha has Lodge jobs that are required to be completed weekly and are checked by the Lodge manager.

Recommendations: The Alpha should make a conscious effort to clean the Lodge more often and clean up after themselves.

## VIII. Community/Campus Involvement

Assessment: The Alpha participates in IFC, has Brothers that participate in the IFC's Judicial Board, and has a Brother that is an IFC officer. The Alpha also participates on various philanthropies on campus and in the community.

Recommendations: The Alpha should consider doing a service based philanthropy such as Habitat for Humanity, Adopt a Street, or tutoring younger children.

## IX. Risk Management

Assessment: The Alpha does a decent job of risk management.

Recommendations: Continue to follow the Chi Psi risk management policies.

## X. Alumni Relations

Relationship/attitudes the Actives have with the Alumni: The Alpha has a positive attitude towards their Alumni. They appreciate everything that their Alumni do for them. However, they really only interact with Todd Fouts and Matt Hess.

Relationship/attitudes the Actives have with the Corporation: The Actives have the same attitude towards their Corporation as they do towards their Alumni in general.

Recommendations: The Alpha should create an Alumni email list (if they do not have one) and actively call Alumni to come to the Lodge for Alumni events. The Alpha should also publish an Alumni newsletter once a semester.

## XI. Alpha Morale

Gentlemanly Behavior: The Brothers are gentlemen. They were respectful to me and are respectful to each other, women, and others. They all went out of their way to meet me and make me feel welcome.

Spirit: The Alpha is in generally high spirits. They are inspired by the fact that they are growing in membership and are motivated to continue the trend. However, their spirits are not as high as they might otherwise be because of the doubt as to whether or not they will be able to keep their Lodge.

Unity: The Alpha is unified and collectively focused on improving as an Alpha.

## XII. Relationship with the National Fraternity

Alpha's feelings toward National/CO: The Alpha has a good relationship with the National Fraternity. They have had good visitor experiences and they were very receptive to me. However, they have not had any programs in the past few years that they have requested; this has caused some frustration among the Brotherhood.

Recommendations: Schedule an AMR and PSD for Alpha Zeta Delta.

### XIII. Ritual/Traditions

Assessment: The Alpha has a great respect and understanding for the Ritual and Traditions of the Fraternity. Initiation and formal meetings are taken seriously by the Brotherhood.

Recommendations: Continue to follow the Chi Psi Traditions Manual and educate new members so that they can carry on the Chi Psi tradition.

### XIV. Overall Assessment of the Alpha

General: I had a very good visit at Alpha Zeta Delta. The Brothers were very receptive to my arrival and they all went out of their way to show me a good time and make me feel welcome. The Alpha's greatest strengths are its motivation to continue to expand its membership and its current leadership. The Alpha's biggest issue is their low grades. The Alpha could soon be one of the best Alpha's in Chi Psi if they continue to grow and significantly improve their grades. In order to achieve their goals, the Alpha needs to focus the entire Brotherhood on how to achieve their goals. An AMR could be very effective for the Alpha. Some possible roadblocks include internal organization, communication, and the fact that only a few of the people do most of the work. The Alpha also needs to keep looking for a permanent Lodge, as the current Lodge could be retaken by AXP.

#### Strengths of the Alpha:

- Alumni
- Leadership
- Desire/Motivation to continue to expand and improve

#### Weaknesses of the Alpha:

- Uncertainty of whether or not they will remain in the current Lodge
- Grades

Short Term Plan: The Alpha needs to continue to expand its membership. The Alpha should set a goal of 8 pledges during spring rush. The Alpha also needs to improve its communication between officers and the Alpha in general. The Alpha also needs to strive to improve their overall GPA.

Long Term Plan: The Alpha should maintain a membership of 60-70. Once the Alpha achieves a stable membership of this size they should focus on expanding their community service efforts, improving their communication, expanding their Alumni participation, and maintaining a higher GPA as an Alpha.