WSU Greek Improvement Recommendations
Executive Summary
September 2013

Background

In early 2013, President Elson Floyd asked a small group of Greek alumni, who had held leadership positions as students and serve WSU and their chapters as alumni, to make recommendations on improving the Greek system. This group developed a comprehensive plan to address the unprecedented number of Greek chapters that have lost recognition in recent years, focusing on improvements that could be made by each part of a successful Greek system: the students themselves, alumni, and the administration.

When the Greek system flourishes, it benefits the students and the University. The retention and graduation rates of Greek students are higher than the student body as a whole, and Greek students serve in key leadership positions. Greeks have produced the majority of WSU’s most accomplished and generous alumni (see next page for details).

Goals

The recommendations reflect the belief that all of us have a responsibility to contribute productively and positively to a flourishing Greek community, that those who do not must be held accountable, and that by working together, we can foster a healthy Greek community that is among the finest in the nation.

Recommendations

- **Adams Mall** should be an asset and source of pride to the University. An assessment and implementation of the highest and best uses of this facility could make it an academic and community hub in the heart of the Greek system.

- The Greek student experience will be enhanced by **higher standards for members and alumni**, such as requiring alumni mentoring and involvement, increased gpa requirements, removal of hard alcohol, and streamlining recognition and re-recognition procedures.

- Make the Student Conduct Code **an educational tool** that focuses on individual accountability, and provides enhanced process for serious violations.

- Elevate the Greek system by creating a high-level **position dedicated to the success** of the Greek community.

- Provide additional resources in personnel and funding to ensure **adequate support and services** for Greek students.
Greek Community Contributions to WSU

The Greek Community has been a part of WSU for over a century. It has produced some of WSU’s most accomplished and involved alumni, and most generous donors.

The Greek undergraduate experience has created emotional bonds between Greek alumni and WSU that time and distance cannot erode and that are different than any other bonds.

WSU needs a vibrant Greek Community.

Greek alumni and Greek students represent less than 25% of their respective population groups.

The Impact of Greek Alumni:

- Nearly half of all Regents’ Distinguished Alumnus/a Award (WSU’s highest honor) recipients are Greek
- Over half of the WSU Foundation Board of Governors are Greek
- Over half of the WSU Foundation Board of Trustees are Greek; two-thirds are Greek or have Greek family members
- 63% of donated funds to WSU from individuals come from Greeks
- Greek alumni on average donate over two-and-a-half times more than non-Greek alumni

How Greek Students Compare:

- Greeks graduate at a higher rate than non-Greeks
- Greek freshmen retention rates are higher than non-Greek freshmen retention rates
- Fewer Greeks are deficient than non-Greeks
- All-Greek GPA five-year average is on par with the all-student GPA
- Ten of the last 12 ASWSU student-body presidents are Greek
- Seven of the last 12 student Regents are Greek
- Greek students give approximately 30,000 hours of community service to the campus and Pullman-area communities annually and generate tens of thousands of dollars for philanthropic causes each year
- 74% of 2012 alcohol-related admits at Pullman Regional Hospital were non-Greeks

Sources: WSU Institutional Research, WSU Common Data Set, CFSL, WSUF Advancement Services, WSU Regents Website, WSUF Website, WSU Student Affairs Website, WSU Budget Office, Pullman Regional Hospital