

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY



Greek Life Strategic Plan Update 2013–2014

EDUCATION REDEFINED

The information in this booklet references updates within the *Greek Life Strategic Plan 2013–2018*. To review sections not included in this update, please reference the 2013–2018 plan document, available through the Office of Student Life.

Mission

The Ball State University fraternity and sorority community provides a premier student development experience dedicated to a lifetime of excellence.

Values

Accountability
Diversity
Education
Integrity
Mutual Respect
Personal Development
Relationships

Goals

The Ball State fraternity and sorority community will accomplish its mission by:

1. Providing academic support and resources to ensure academic success and sustainability.
2. Promoting the safety, health, and wellness of its chapters and their individual members.
3. Engaging stakeholders, initiating and maintaining collaborative relationships, and consistently supporting a positive membership experience.
4. Dedicating resources for the continuous growth of community membership.
5. Engaging in intentional efforts to support the specific needs of its chapters and their individual members.



Support

Goal 1. The fraternity and sorority community will provide academic support and resources to ensure academic success and sustainability.

Objective C: Academic Support

i. By May 2013, the fraternity and sorority community will implement a recognition strategy for academically high-achieving members.

- Each spring, the Greek Week Committee provides a scholarship reception for students who have obtained a semester or cumulative grade point average of a 3.5 or higher. Students are invited to this reception and given a certificate for their accomplishments.
 - Each fall, the governing councils provide a cookout for members with a 3.5 GPA or higher, and councils recognize high academically achieving members and chapters.
 - Ball State supports organizations dedicated to honoring and advancing academic excellence.
 - a. Order of Omega is a leadership honor society for members of fraternity and sorority organizations. The chapter recognizes juniors and seniors who demonstrate high standards in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and involvement within their respective organization, campus, and local community. Members are selected from the top 3 percent of students at Ball State University.
 - b. Gamma Sigma Alpha is the premier organization committed to the academic success of members and alignment with the academic mission of Ball State University. Students are eligible for membership based on GPA and membership in a Greek fraternity or sorority. The society strives to uphold the high ideals of scholastic achievement and therefore, only students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) at the start of their junior year or a 3.5 GPA or higher in any semester during their junior or senior year are eligible.
- iii. By January 2014, the fraternity and sorority community will partner with the Ball State Learning Center to create academic support programs.
- The center presented at the council delegation meetings in spring 2014 and materials have been shared with all councils about services and resources.
 - a. A formal relationship with the center will be explored in fall 2014.



Wellness

Goal 2. The fraternity and sorority community will promote the safety, health, and wellness of its chapters and their individual members.

Objective B: The fraternity and sorority community governing councils (IFC, MGC, NPHC, and PHC), in coordination with the Office of Student Life, will formally evaluate all current safety, health, and wellness programs and develop new programs as necessary.

i. By August 2013, Title IX, sexual assault, and sexual misconduct education programs will be created and implemented.

- The community has developed an ongoing partnership with the victim services advocate and the university's Title IX coordinator to train risk managers and other members of the Greek community on Title IX to be able to provide information and train their chapters on this topic. The first training will be held in fall 2014 with annual trainings during spring semesters.

Objective C: The fraternity and sorority community will empower individual members to hold one another accountable for policies and procedures that govern fraternities and sororities.

i. By May 2013, the fraternity and sorority chapter recognition and rewards programs will be formally evaluated.

- The Ball State University Greek Life Accreditation Program allows chapters to create goals and vision for the year while each builds a plan with the values of the organization. The requirements stipulate that each chapter create an action plan as outlined in eight separate areas. Chapters were tasked with following through with their plans throughout the year, and presenting them to a panel of community stakeholders, including council leaders and dedicated alumni. Chapters were assigned *needs improvement*, *meets expectations*, or *exceeds expectations* in each category.



Collaborate

Goal 3. The fraternity and sorority community will engage stakeholders, initiate and maintain collaborative relationships, and consistently support a positive membership experience.

Objective B: Faculty and Staff

- i. By January 2014, the fraternity and sorority community will work with Ball State Intercollegiate Athletics to build athletic support among members.
 - On November 6, 2013, members of the Greek community supported Project 10K with Dance Marathon at the Ball State vs. Central Michigan football game.
 - In fall 2014, the IFC Executive Council will test transportation to and from Ball State home football games to encourage attendance of Greek students.
 - Several fraternity chapters have initiated members of athletic teams into their chapters, including Alpha Phi Alpha (two football student-athletes), Phi Kappa Psi (two football student-athletes), Pi Kappa Phi (one football student-athlete), and Sigma Alpha Epsilon (one swimmer).
 - IFC President Andrew Sharp has met with a graduate assistant for the Cardinal Varsity Club to explore how IFC chapters could better support athletics, including purchasing marketing space.
 - IFC chapters are exploring the option of pairing with women's athletic teams.

Objective C: Undergraduate members

- i. By December 2013, undergraduate leaders will evaluate with the Office of Student Life whether fraternity and sorority alumni advisory councils are necessary.
 - The program coordinator and assistant director have completed their evaluation of the previous advisory council. The Greek Life staff has identified one chapter advisor from a PHC, IFC, and NPHC chapter to serve as a listening board for new community-wide ideas, assist with program evaluations, etc.
 - A board of house corporation presidents/advisors for the IFC chapters with houses has been developed, and a primary contact with the advisors has been established.



- ii. By May 2013, fraternity and sorority governing councils (IFC, MGC, NPHC, and PHC) will develop opportunities for councils to cultivate greater understanding and respect for one another.

- In spring 2013, a councilwide meeting was held for the executive board members of all Greek governing councils. This meeting now happens each semester.
- In January 2014, student leaders from all four councils (IFC, MGC, NPHC, and PHC) gathered to attend the Greek Leadership Summit. During two full days at an off-campus location, students discussed personal leadership, all Greek initiatives, policies and procedures, and similarities/differences between organizations and groups. Programs included personal leadership styles, an accreditation/policy workshop, the history of Greek life, proper risk management protocol, and individual time with council officers and chapter presidents.
- In February 2014, 24 student leaders from all Greek governing councils attended the Central Fraternal Leadership/National Black Greek Leadership Conference through the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values. There, students attended education sessions, heard from speakers, and engaged in various social activities with more than 2,600 student leaders from across the United States. Students traveled together, ate together, and were intentionally placed in hotel rooms with other students from another council. Throughout the conference, students were referred to as the "Ball State Delegation," rather than their specific council. This experience enhanced community bonding and relationship building among respective council leaders.
- In April 2014, the Greek council presidents met to discuss the past semester and assist in all council event planning for the fall.

- iii. By December 2013, the Office of Student Life staff and student leaders will develop and implement a comprehensive communication plan for all stakeholders.

- At the end of each semester, starting in spring 2014, an *Info Graph* will be created to highlight membership recruitment, retention, academic success, community service hours, philanthropic donations as well as graduation rates.



Community

Goal 4. The fraternity and sorority community will dedicate resources to the continuous growth of the community membership.

Objective A: The fraternity and sorority community will assess the need to add chapters to correspond with increases in overall chapter size.

- i. By May 2017, IFC will explore the addition of three new chapters.
 - Pi Kappa Phi colonized in November 2013.
 - The expansion committee met in November 2013 to evaluate the feasibility of expansion. The committee decided not to invite another fraternity to campus for the next year.
 - This will be reviewed each fall semester through 2017.
- ii. By May 2017, NPHC will explore the addition of one new chapter.
 - Kappa Alpha Psi returned to Ball State in August 2013.
 - Iota Phi Theta returned to Ball State in April 2014.

Objective B: Membership intake and recruitment will be a priority of the fraternity and sorority community.

- ii. By May 2014, the Office of Student Life and governing councils will provide regular training opportunities focusing on recruitment and marketing for chapter members.
 - a. In April 2014, the Office of Student Life provided an interactive workshop for Greek members about how to engage and promote their organizations on social media.

Connect

Goal 5. The fraternity and sorority community will engage in intentional efforts to support the specific needs of its chapters and their individual members.

Objective B: By May 2014, the fraternity and sorority community will increase the number of collaborative programming events to include other departments and offices on campus.

- i. Greek Life supported and participated in SGA's Countdown to Kickoff events in the fall of 2013.
- ii. The IFC and Panhellenic chapters supported Project 10K with Dance Marathon and Athletics in November of 2013.
- iii. The Greek Week Committee partnered with Late Nite to cohost a Late Nite in March 2014.
- iv. The Greek community partnered with Student Rights and Community Standards through investigations as well as chapter education during Greek Academies.
- v. Greek Life partnered with Excellence in Leadership to promote both spring 2014 speakers and to engage the Greek community in participating in both events.
- vi. The community developed an ongoing partnership with the victim services advocate to train risk managers and other members of the Greek community on Title IX to be able to provide information and train their chapters on this topic.
- vii. The community will continue to build new partnerships each year based on the needs of the community.





A special thank you is given to the many dedicated alumni, advisors, students, faculty, and staff who contributed to the development of the 2013–18 Greek Life Strategic Plan.

In addition, we would like to thank external consultant Rick Barnes for his leadership and facilitation throughout the strategic planning process.

bsu.edu/greeklife



The information presented here, correct at the time of publication, is subject to change. Ball State University practices equal opportunity in education and employment and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community. 10842-14 umc