Blueprint for Trinity University’s Fraternities and Sororities

Charge:
“To establish a blueprint for Trinity’s fraternities and sororities and the administration that ensures the long term success of social fraternities and sororities on Trinity’s campus.”

1. Strengthen the relationship among Campus and Community Involvement (CCI), fraternity and sorority students, and alumni.

- **Foster open, consistent, and professional communication at all times between staff members, alumni, and students.** A culture of openness, honesty and integrity can best be nurtured through regular meetings, transparency, and mutual respect and specific, systemized communication lines for any area of concern. Representatives from CCI, University Communications, Alumni Relations, and the NAB Fraternity and Sorority Committee, should collaborate on developing guidelines for ongoing communication as well as for dealing with special situations. In particular, communicating with dedicated volunteers and on crafting key messages to strengthen relationships with fraternity and sorority alumni and students.

- Require all fraternities and sororities to identify and develop at least one long-term service initiative that enables members to pair volunteer hours and community commitment with academic or personal interests. Fraternities and sororities may choose their own service and philanthropic initiatives or work in conjunction with TUVAC. What sustains fraternities and sororities over time is a focus on shared values, leadership, academic excellence, and service to others. These principles should undergird the Trinity fraternity and sorority system.

- Require each organization to have a minimum of two alumni advisors. One should be designated the primary contact for the organization. These advisors will be chosen in partnership with the University and must be graduates of the University of at least five years standing.

- Explore the appropriateness of “Greek,” “social club,” “Greek Council” and other terms in representing fraternities and sororities at Trinity.

2. Strengthen Alumni Engagement through the Creation of a Fraternity and Sorority Committee on the National Alumni Board.

- The Greek Alumni Advisory Council (GAAC) has served a meaningful role during the last three years in providing a conduit of assistance to the Office of Student Life.
• Additionally, GAAC has identified and involved a number of alumni who are now active in various roles with Trinity’s fraternities and sororities. This has been beneficial to the strengthening of ties within the University community.

• The National Alumni Board (NAB) is now embracing those functions and expanding the base of alumni involvement with Trinity student organizations. The objective is to build on the base that GAAC has begun, in principle, and among those alumni who have become active as a result of GAAC’s work.

• The NAB will establish a newly created Fraternities and Sororities Committee, selected from committed team of members with the following areas of experience:
  - Alumni Leaders of their respective Fraternities or Sororities
  - Participants on the 2012 Alumni Fraternity and Sorority Task Force
  - Current Alumni Advisors to Fraternities and Sororities and their respective Chairs

• This will enable more frequent alumni engagement with active fraternity and sorority members through stronger communications and actions between the Alumni Advisors and Chairs, and the NAB Fraternities and Sororities Committee members.

• Act to formalize the relationships with the Alumni Advisor Chair, the Alumni Communication Chair and the Community Service Chair by inviting them to be ex-officio members of the NAB, participating on the Fraternities and Sororities Committee.

• Support and strengthen the roles of these key Alumni volunteers focused on fraternities and sororities:
  - Alumni Advisor Chair - responsible for recruiting alumni advisors and serving as a liaison between the University, the advisors and the NAB.
  - Alumni Communication Chair - responsible for distributing information to alumni advisors, other alumni, and the University’s communications department.
  - Alumni Community Service Chair - position will work with Alumni Relations in planning and organizing the annual alumni and student community service event held during alumni weekend.

Alumni Relations will continue working with fraternities and sororities on hosting reunions on campus during Alumni Weekend or at other times during the year. Alumni Relations will work with fraternities and sororities to locate appropriate on-campus locations for such events and actively encourage and support full participation of fraternities and sororities alumni in all alumni events. Fraternity and sorority reunions should include active members. An annual all fraternity and sorority event on campus will also be explored.
3. Develop a comprehensive orientation plan

- Ensure that orientation enables each club to
  - Select individuals that the club believes will support its character and objectives.
  - Create an environment whereby the potential new members chosen by each club must work together through team-building situations to create a cohesive and bonded group of friends. These friends form bonds that are so close that they often refer to themselves as brothers/sisters. Team-building activities must comply with anti-hazing and other laws and the Trinity University Code of Conduct.
  - Develop community service projects, provide support for studying, and create opportunities for learning the history, goals, and ethics of the organization and fraternity and sorority community.

- Require each individual fraternity and sorority alumni group to designate at least two alumni as orientation advisors, who can be the alumni advisors mentioned in section one. These orientation advisors will be chosen in partnership with the University and must be graduates of the University of at least five years standing. These advisors will meet regularly with student representatives of their group, including the president and orientation chair, and will be instrumental in the orientation process and a vital part in its development and execution.

- Engage alumni advisors in developing the orientation calendar. The alumni advisors will monitor the program throughout orientation to make sure it complies with anti-hazing laws, the University Student Code of Conduct, and Greek Council orientation policies. CCI will provide educational training for alumni advisors, actives, and orientation chairs to ensure understanding of policies, laws, and current anti-hazing practices and trends.

- Require orientation calendars to be submitted for review and final approval by CCI and Greek Council co-rush/orientation chairs. This is to ensure compliance with the current Greek Council Calendar Policy, which requires organizations to submit a detailed calendar of all orientation activities and events. All activities of fraternities and sororities are subject to legal review.

- Encourage alumni and active members of each fraternity and sorority to develop and write an Education Program, to be approved by the alumni of the organization, which will outline the purpose, history, mission, expectations, and orientation for each organization.

- Explore the viability of a shorter orientation (currently five weeks).
4. Strengthen fraternity and sorority internal self-governance

- Encourage fraternities and sororities (and their respective student leaders) to work collaboratively with alumni advisors to develop internal judicial/standards boards, or enhance existing judicial/standards boards, within each organization. This will increase the ability for organizations to resolve concerns or issues internally.

- Offer the opportunity for fraternity and sorority judicial/standards chairs to participate in or attend training to build and develop successful internal self-governance structures and procedures.

- Promote an understanding of current community-wide standards and, if necessary, encourage the Greek Council, alumni, and CCI to review or revise standards for the community.

- Continue to hold all organizations and individuals accountable to University policies and procedures. All fraternities and sororities remain subject to University procedures. In addition, they are accountable to the Greek Council Constitution, inclusive of the nine hour hands off policy and the calendar policy.

Next Steps: Establish the following implementation committees:

**Frataternity and sorority communication committee** (Fraternity and Sorority Alumni Advisors, students, CCI staff, University Communications staff, Alumni Relations staff)
- Possible charge: see section one

**Orientation Committee** (Fraternity and Sorority Alumni, students, CCI staff)
- Possible charge: examine the current rush/orientation process and schedule, including length of orientation and presence of alcohol at recruitment events

**Standards Committee** (Fraternity and Sorority Committee of NAB, students, CCI staff)
- Possible charge: Define the selection process for alumni advisors; discuss current Greek Council standards (and other campus standards); and strengthen current fraternity and sorority judicial system

**Alumni and External Relations Committee** (Fraternity and Sorority Committee of NAB, Fraternity and Sorority Alumni, students, CCI staff)
- Possible Charge: Explore ways of energizing fraternity and sorority alumni on a broader level, through participation in service, events, mentoring, and other opportunities.