

THETA XI

Accreditation Report
2007-2008

Scholarship

- Theta Xi was ranked 11th among fraternities in the fall 2007 semester with a 2.966 GPA. This placed them below the All Men's, and All Fraternity GPA. The chapter ranked 6th among fraternities in the spring 2008 semester with a 3.126 GPA. This placed them above the All Men's and All Fraternity GPA.
- The chapter had 25% of their members on Dean's List in the fall 2007 semester, and 20% in the spring 2008 semester.
- The chapter's new member class obtained a GPA of 2.969, placing them 7th among fraternities.
- The chapter established academic teams this year, which created a positive and competitive academic environment. The committee commends the chapter for taking the teams seriously.
- The chapter held two workshops through the Center for Academic Success on finals preparation, study skills and time management.
- The chapter held a scholarship dinner where rewards were distributed.
- The chapter has a faculty advisor, Roseann Corsi, but the chapter did not seem to utilize her as much as in the past. The committee would encourage the chapter to actively reach out to her to build the relationship back up and ensure that it is not lost.
- The chapter did not have much in place with regards to positive incentives, which was a recommendation from last year. This continues to be a recommendation from the committee.
- The chapter's self-reporting of study hours is not the most efficient use of an incentive system. The committee recommends the chapter work with the Center for Academic Success to establish a scholarship plan, which includes incentives, that meets the brothers' needs.
- The committee also recommends the chapter raise their minimum standard of GPA from a 2.25 to something higher. The committee also suggests the chapter send a letter to parents about the changes and plans they are putting in place to assist brothers academically in an effort to try to partner with parents.
- The chapter had one faculty dinner and discussion this year with Professor Terry Hart. The committee recommended last year that the chapter increase from the two they held last year, which did not occur. The committee recommends once more that the chapter make this a focus for next year.

In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Theta Xi to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

Leadership

- The chapter did a leadership/goal setting workshop with Jess Misner in the Office of Student Leadership Development.

- The chapter participated in a ropes course in April.
- The chapter worked with their Greek Life Coordinator to conduct officer transition and begin establishing a committee structure within the chapter for next year.
- The chapter worked closely with their Chapter Advisor Brian Bowers and Theta Xi Headquarters to implement a new member education program that is in line with Theta Xi nationally stated values and program.
- The chapter had representation on the Interfraternity Council this year. Josh Regina served as the Secretary and Matt Curry served one semester as the Facilities Chair.
- The chapter has some involvement through leadership positions outside of the fraternity, particularly in athletic-related teams.
- The chapter had two members awarded with the Leonard Pool Prize for Entrepreneurship in the amount of \$12,000.
- The chapter instituted a new emergency texting system called Network Text, which the committee feels is a best practice.
- Theta Xi still struggles with proper delegation of leadership and responsibilities throughout the entire chapter. The committee is pleased to hear about the new committee system in place, but expects to see tangible results. This lack of consistent overall chapter effort is a problem that every other chapter had managed over the past three years, and Theta Xi has to move forward.
- The chapter has no by-law structure and will be focusing on re-writing these to provide direction for the chapter in the future. The committee recommends the chapter follow through with this as soon as possible and expects to see the bi-laws as a major component in chapter operations in 2008-2009.
- The committee recommends the chapter utilize the Office of Student Leadership Development immediately in the fall 2008 semester for goal setting and workshops for the executive board or chapter membership. The committee would like to see the chapter start the year off running, as it has repeatedly been the case that the chapter takes the first semester to get organized.

In the area of **Leadership**, the committee rated Theta Xi to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

Citizenship

- Theta Xi had three Code of Conduct violations this year for unregistered social events.
- The chapter worked their faculty advisor and the Lacrosse team to organize their annual MS Walk in April. The committee feels this is a great partnership for a cause that is important to the chapter. The chapter was recognized as a "Gold Chapter" by the MS Society for their commitment.
- The chapter's participation in the Cans for Habitat program was a tremendous effort in trying to be proactive in the environment. The brothers were one of three chapters recognized with the Habitat for Humanity Service Award.
- The chapter was involved in a few volunteer opportunities, including Calypso Elementary School tutoring students and three brothers who coached basketball at Holy Infancy School.

- The chapter participated in four philanthropic events of other groups, including the Fiji Fall Classic, Delta Gamma Anchor Slam, Breakfast for a Buck, and Alpha Chi Omega's luminary project.
- The chapter has some involvement in clubs or organizations outside of the fraternity, but this could be expanded. The chapter should consider establishing a requirement or an incentive program for brothers to get involved in other organizations.
- The chapter began to formalize a standards board and establish a code of conduct for members. The chapter has to determine the breadth and scope of that standards board and how it can create positive and punitive measures that impact the chapter. The committee recommends the chapter work with their Greek Life Coordinator and the Office of Student Conduct on these processes.
- The chapter has begun to formalize some events, however there is no plan in place to organize community service and philanthropic efforts, nor any reasoning on why the chapter is choosing the events that they do. This is something that needs to change.
- The committee recommends the chapter take a look overall at their efforts and figure out how Theta Xi can build on annual successes, as opposed to starting from scratch every year.

In the area of **Citizenship**, the committee rated Theta Xi to be a **Poor Chapter**.

Partnership

- The chapter worked well with their alumni advisor Brian Bowers, particularly in the areas of New Member Education and Ritual.
- The chapter sent two newsletters to alumni.
- The chapter hosted Founder's Day in April.
- The chapter partnered with their faculty advisor and the lacrosse team for the MS Walk.
- Brothers of Theta Xi participated in the First-Year Move-in.
- The chapter invited Counseling Services to discuss drug use and abuse.
- The chapter needs to continue to work to make sure the alumni are being utilized as mentors as opposed to simply taking care of operation aspects for the chapter facility.
- The chapter created a new website this year and utilized the "Linked In" program on their website that allowed for communicating updates, events, and news to alumni, as well as connected brothers from different classes or areas of the country. The committee believes the "Linked In" program to be a best practice.

In the area of **Partnership**, the committee rated Theta Xi to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

Stewardship

- The chapter leadership worked closely with their Chapter Advisor to re-educate the brotherhood on ritual ceremonies, particularly Initiation. New ritual equipment was also created for the chapter's use.
- The chapter hired a new cook this year, which has been a positive for the chapter.

- The chapter's damages were on the lower end.
- The chapter made improvements to the house this year. A new stereo system, HDTV projector, and juice machine were a few additions. The chapter and alumni have been working with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs to purchase new dining room tables for next year as well.
- The chapter had their charter professionally restored.
- The chapter continues to have a strong Emergency Action Plan and added the Network Text this year as a way to communicate with the entire brotherhood.
- The chapter participated in intramural sports and won Basketball.
- The chapter worked with Sigma Phi Epsilon and Phi Sigma Kappa to host the Iron Man competition during Greek Week.
- The chapter had no life safety violations and the facility was left in reasonably good condition at closing as compared to last year. The chapter's new move-out committee seems to have worked well and the committee encourages the chapter to continue.
- They have begun incorporating ritual meetings into regular chapter operations. The chapter held three ritual meetings, which made a positive impact on communication and organization based on feedback from the Chapter President. The committee would like to see the chapter continue and possibly increase the frequency of these meetings since they seem to be working so well.
- Ritual is an integral aspect of any fraternity, which the chapter should continue to build upon and see as a stepping stone for becoming the chapter that the committee knows it has the potential to become.
- The committee strongly recommends chapter leadership and general membership take initiative in the operations of the chapter instead of consistently relying on advisors to take the lead. While it is great to have advisor support and mentoring, the chapter should be able to properly function without those individuals having to be present.

In the area of **Stewardship**, the committee rated Theta Xi to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Theta Xi needs to realize that the bulk of the Greek community has moved forward over the past few years and yet they are still struggling with the same basic organizational problems. The chapter is doing some good programs and establishing some important policies and structure within the chapter, but the men have to figure out how to take steps that are going to move them forward as a chapter. The chapter has to figure out how to augment their social activities with reasonable leadership and partnership activities. The committee feels the chapter has to make a decision about where they want to go and take hold of their future, and that this decision needs to happen in 2008-09.

The accreditation committee assigns Theta Xi an overall rating of Bronze Chapter, which is considered a solid level of achievement in the accreditation process, with all the privileges that accompany such a rating.

Theta Xi

Recommendations

- The chapter has a faculty advisor Roseann Corsi, but the relationship did not seem to be as close as it has in the past. The committee recommends that the chapter actively reach out to her to build and sustain the relationship.
- The chapter did not have much in place with regards to positive incentives, which was a recommendation from last year. This continues to be a recommendation from the committee. (Scholarship)
- The chapter's self-reporting of study hours is not the most efficient use of an incentive system. The committee recommends the chapter work with the Center for Academic Success to establish a scholarship plan with incentives that meet the brothers' needs. (Scholarship)
- The committee recommends the chapter raise their minimum standard of GPA from a 2.25 to something higher. The committee suggests the chapter send a letter to parents about the changes and plans they are putting in place to assist brothers academically in an effort to try to partner with parents. (Scholarship)
- The chapter had one faculty dinner this year. The committee recommended last year that the chapter increase from the two they held last year, which did not occur. The committee recommends once more that the chapter make this a focus for next year. (Scholarship)
- Theta Xi still struggles with proper delegation of leadership and responsibilities throughout the entire chapter. The committee is pleased to hear about the new committee system in place, but expects to see tangible results. This lack of consistent overall chapter effort is a problem that every other chapter had managed over the past three years, and Theta Xi has to move forward.
- The chapter has no by-law structure and will be focusing on re-writing these to provide direction for the chapter in the future. The committee recommends the chapter follow through with this as soon as possible and expects to see the by-laws as a major component in chapter operations in 2008-2009.
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- The chapter has some involvement in clubs or organizations outside of the fraternity, but this could be expanded. The chapter should consider establishing a requirement or an incentive program for brothers to get involved in other organizations.
- The chapter began to formalize a standards board and establish a code of conduct for members. The chapter has to determine the breadth and scope of that standards board and how it can create positive and punitive measures that impact the chapter. The committee recommends the chapter work with their Greek Life Coordinator and the Office of Student Conduct on these processes.
- The committee recommends the chapter take a look overall at their efforts and figure out how Theta Xi can build on annual successes, as opposed to starting from scratch every year. (Citizenship)

- The chapter needs to continue to work to make sure the alumni are being utilized as mentors as opposed to doing things for the chapter. (Partnership)
- They have begun incorporating ritual meetings into regular chapter operations. The chapter held three ritual meetings, which made a positive impact on communication and organization based on feedback from the Chapter President. The committee would like to see the chapter continue and possibly increase the frequency of these meetings since they seem to be working so well.
- Ritual is an integral aspect of any fraternity, which the chapter should continue to build upon and see as a stepping stone for becoming the chapter that the committee knows it has the potential to become. (Stewardship)
- The committee strongly recommends chapter leadership and general membership take initiative in the operations of the chapter instead of consistently relying on advisors to take the lead. While it is great to have advisor support and mentoring, the chapter should be able to properly function without those individuals having to be present.

Best Practices

- The chapter instituted a new emergency texting system called Network Text, which the committee feels is a Best Practice. (Leadership)
- The chapter created a new website this year and utilized the “Linked In” program on their website that allowed for communicating updates, events, and news to alumni, as well as connected brothers from different classes or areas of the country. The committee believes the “Linked In” program to be a best practice. (Partnership)