

GAMMA PHI BETA

Accreditation Report

2008-2009

Scholarship

- Gamma Phi Beta was ranked 5th amongst the sororities in the fall 2008 semester with a 3.3 GPA, which put them above the All Sorority, All Women, All Greek, and All Undergraduate averages. The chapter was ranked 1st amongst the sororities in the spring 2009 semester with a 3.389 GPA, which places the above the All Sorority, All Women, All Greek and All Undergraduate Averages.
- The chapter's new member GPA for the spring 2009 semester was 3.223, ranking 2nd out of 8 sororities.
- In the fall 2008 semester 36% of the chapter made Dean's List. In the spring 2009 semester, 33% of the chapter made Dean's List.
- The chapter's GPA is good, but there is not much in terms of academic reinforcement from a community wide level. The chapter seems to be primarily relying on individual motivation from members and should look to formally structure their academic program. The chapter continues to reward sisters for academic achievement, but this does not prepare the chapter for working with struggling chapter members.
- The chapter discussed a peer mentoring program but the committee questions whether members are really utilizing this program. The committee recommends that the chapter spend some time in the fall formalizing this program with the Center for Academic Success.
- The chapter conducted two academic workshops in the fall semester with Chi Phi Fraternity and the Center for Academic Success.
- The chapter found a new faculty advisor in Jessica Diehl this year. The committee suggests the chapter find ways to continue building a positive relationship with Mrs. Diehl, as she and her office are valuable resources to the chapter.
- The chapter has a minimum grade point average of a 2.4 for becoming a new member, which they strictly adhered to this year and is in line with their Inter/National Headquarter policy.

In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Gamma Phi Beta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Leadership

- The chapter continues to conduct positive practices that were established by previous executive boards. The committee recommends the chapter spend some time focusing on the reason behind these practices and continue to assess them for effectiveness.
- The chapter has a great staff advisor in Jessica Diehl and need to continue to utilize her. Jessica Diehl was able to bring ideas to the chapter, but the chapter has to make sure to follow through on their end with what they want to do, as well as reflect on why. The committee recommends the chapter focus on integrating real development into the chapter versus doing things because they seem like the right thing to do.

- The chapter conducted three workshops for their new members with Lambda Chi Alpha and the Office of Student Leadership Development this spring. The committee recommends the chapter expand workshop opportunities to the general membership.
- The chapter organized their annual chapter retreat this year in the Poconos to discuss goal setting and review Gamma Phi Beta information. The committee recommends the chapter work with Jessica Diehl and the Office of Student Leadership Development to ensure this retreat is organized so it is the most beneficial for the chapter.
- The chapter continued their engagement with International Headquarters focusing on ritual education and values of Gamma Phi Beta. The women were assisted by their Chapter Leadership Consultant in conducting the proper Initiation.
- The chapter made great strides this year in complying with the International Gamma Phi Beta election process and moving all positions to be on the same election cycle for the fall 2009 elections.
- The chapter held a formal officer transition workshop this year with the help of Jessica Diehl and their Greek Life Coordinator Tiffany Showalter. This was the first official transition workshop for the chapter and should be continued.
- The chapter worked closely with International Headquarters to begin revising their by-laws, as well as the revamping and approval of their standing rules.
- The chapter had a new member accepted into the GEM Mentor program for the fall 2009 semester, which is the first participant from the chapter. The committee hopes to see the chapter continue this participation.
- The Continuous Chapter Improvement Plan could be an excellent way to mesh Lehigh and Inter/national headquarters resources if the chapter works to find ways to identify and streamline practices from both the university and Gamma Phi Beta HQ.
- The chapter sent their executive committee to their Regional Leadership Conference in Philadelphia and four women to their International Convention in Cincinnati. Rebecca Raphael also attended the Northeast Greek Leadership Association conference.
- The chapter also had representation on the Panhellenic Council this year in the positions of VP Recruitment and Community Service Chair. Rebecca Raphael will represent Gamma Phi Beta in the role of VP Programming on next year's executive board.
- The committee understands the chapter continues to work with their International headquarters to find an alumna advisor, as this is a very important aspect that has been missing. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs has and continues to be willing to help in any way possible.

In the area of **Leadership**, the committee rated Gamma Phi Beta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Citizenship

- The chapter has members in roughly 75 different organizations, including Student Senate.
- The chapter has done a good amount of community service. The women tutored elementary school children at the Church of the Nativity and volunteered at New Bethany Ministries' soup kitchen. Several individuals are also involved with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

- The women have also been involved in philanthropic endeavors such as Adopt-A-Family, Fiji Fall Classic, and had potential new members decorate frames for their national philanthropy Campfire USA.
- The chapter's standards board rewards members as well as holds members accountable.
- The chapter updated their standing rules to be more in line with International Headquarters policies and meet the needs of the sisters.
- The chapter has a tracking system for involvement that allows them to compare with previous years and provide feedback to members.

In the area of **Citizenship**, the committee rated Gamma Phi Beta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Partnership

- The chapter invited and hosted 15 faculty members at the house for a luncheon.
- The chapter's Greek Life Coordinator Tiffany Showalter and staff advisor Jessica Diehl attended several lunches at the chapter house.
- The chapter invited Sexperts, Career Services, an alumna who works in PR at Estee Lauder, and Professor Nagel to speak as part of their Personal and Chapter Enrichment programming.
- The chapter sent out the very first parent/alumnae newsletter, which the committee feels is a good step for them.
- The chapter continues to utilize their website to convey pertinent information.
- The chapter continues to have a positive relationship both with their House Corporation Board and International Headquarters. Representatives from both groups assisted the chapter with elections, recruitment, and initiation.
- The chapter partnered again with Chi Phi Fraternity to hold their annual parents' baseball game, which raised money for the Boys and Girls Club.
- The chapter worked with Alpha Omicron Pi to sponsor a movie and video conference on breast ironing. The committee considers this type of world view social justice programming to be a best practice.
- The chapter partnered with Kappa Sigma to conduct an etiquette dinner led by Professor Diane Boyle, mother of two Kappa Sigma alumni and a current Gamma Phi Beta sister.
- The chapter still has a focus on being "Green" and sends a representative to Environmental Coalition meetings. It seems as though the chapter's relationship with Professor Dork Sahagian decreased this year. As recommended last year, Gamma Phi Beta should look to continue working with Professor Sahagian to extend the environmental commitments of the chapter.
- The committee would like to see the chapter reach out to the greater Lehigh community to look for partnership opportunities.

In the area of **Partnership**, the committee rated Gamma Phi Beta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Stewardship

- Gamma Phi Beta women respect their house and keep it in great condition, which is something they have continued to improve upon from year to year. They were among the top three potential candidates for the Stewardship Award at the Greek Awards Banquet.
- While damages were already minimal in the fall semester, the chapter managed to decrease them in the spring.
- The chapter had no life safety violations this year.
- The chapter has been working closely with Residential Services and alumnae for significant summer renovations to the chapter library and exterior of the house.
- The chapter was honest about ritual proficiency. The committee commends the chapter for their work in this area as it is very important and it seems the sisters are truly working to improve.
- The chapter participated in Greek Week.
- The chapter has a thorough risk management plan, but the committee recommends the entire membership review the plan to ensure chapter activities are in compliance.
- The chapter attained their goals with regards to in-house budgeting.
- The chapter provides a detailed breakdown to new members regarding financial obligations.
- The chapter presented their chef and OneSource crew person with gifts to show their appreciation for the hard work they have done throughout the past year.
- The committee truly appreciates how honest the chapter has been regarding the areas that are still in need of some improvement. This shows the ability to self-assess and acknowledge the work that still needs to be done.

In the area of **Stewardship**, the committee rated Gamma Phi Beta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

Overall Rating

The committee assigns Gamma Phi Beta an overall rating of Gold. The chapter has a lot of practices incorporated that have been in place from last year, but the committee would like to see the chapter be more intentional in assessing and communicating how these practices are benefiting the women in the organization. The chapter needs to understand how these programs and policies are linking back to Gamma Phi Beta. It is this type of understanding that sets up an atmosphere for a consistently excelling chapter. Gamma Phi Beta had a solid year, and the committee is confident that they can overcome this final challenge to become a consistently excelling chapter.

The committee assigns Gamma Phi Beta with an overall rating of Gold Chapter, which is considered a high level of achievement in the accreditation process, with all of the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating. The rewards/recognition will be discussed with the chapter's membership at the beginning of the new academic year.

Best Practices:

- The chapter worked with Alpha Omicron Pi to sponsor a movie and video conference on breast ironing. The committee considers this type of world view social justice programming to be a best practice.

Recommendations:

- The chapter's GPA is good, but there is not much in terms of academic reinforcement from a community wide level. The chapter seems to be primarily relying on individual motivation from members and should look to formally structure their academic program. The chapter continues to reward sisters for academic achievement, but this does not prepare the chapter for working with struggling chapter members.
- The chapter discussed a peer mentoring program but the committee questions whether members are really utilizing this program. The committee recommends that the chapter spend some time in the fall formalizing this program with the Center for Academic Success.
- The chapter found a new faculty advisor in Jessica Diehl this year. The committee suggests the chapter find ways to continue building a positive relationship with Mrs. Diehl, as she and her office are valuable resources to the chapter.
- The chapter continues to conduct positive practices that were established by previous executive boards. The committee recommends the chapter spend some time focusing on the reason behind these practices and continue to assess them for effectiveness.
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