

## PHI SIGMA KAPPA

Accreditation Report

2008-2009

### Scholarship

- Phi Sigma Kappa had a fall grade point average of 3.25 which ranked them 2<sup>nd</sup> among fraternities and 7<sup>th</sup> overall above the All Men's, All Greek and All Fraternity Averages. The chapter's spring grade point average is 3.24326, which ranks them 2<sup>nd</sup> among fraternities and 7<sup>th</sup> over all overall, above the All Men's, All Greek and All Fraternity Averages.
- The chapter's spring 2009 New Member GPA was 3.22, ranking 1<sup>st</sup> out of 20 fraternities.
- The chapter has continued their very intensive scholarship program using resources such as mentor groups, fantasy scholarships drives and monthly faculty scholarship dinners.
- The chapter continues to recognize and reward brothers who do well academically through their academic awards system
- Phi Sigma Kappa has a very precise plan for brothers who need academic assistance.
- Phi Sigma Kappa has created a partnership with Chi Psi in order to help them revamp their existing scholarship plan. The committee considers this to be a best practice.
- The chapter partnered with Kappa Alpha Theta to institute academic teams in order to strengthen Kappa Alpha Theta's formal scholarship plan. The committee feels that this is an excellent collaborative opportunity and considers it a best practice.
- Phi Sigma Kappa, with the help of Kappa Alpha Theta, implemented the semi-annual scholarship dinner concept.
- The chapter continues to have a great relationship with the Center for Academic Success, which is a very strong and solid partnership for the brothers.
- The chapter continued their beginning of the year meetings with the scholarship chair to discuss grade point average goals for each brother.
- Phi Sigma Kappa's academic support program was modified from past years to include meetings with the scholarship chair weekly when a brother falls under a GPA of 2.5
- The chapter continued to take advantage of the New York Times speaker program offered through Auxiliary Services this year. Considering some of the incidents that occurred at the height of the presidential election, the chapter hosted a presentation topic titled "How Race is Lived in America"
- The chapter has continued to recruit based upon academic achievement, which is in line with the organizations cardinal principles
- In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Phi Sigma Kappa to be a **Gold Chapter**.

## Leadership

- The chapter does a great job with assessing both formally and informally. The committee recommends that the chapter take it to the next level and implement some innovative ideas with Human Resources or a Professor.
- The chapter hosted their Regional Conclave at Lehigh for two consecutive years
- Phi Sigma Kappa was one of the only groups to take advantage of “The Race”, a new program including two workshops focused on the upcoming Presidential election as a case study to explore the topics of difficult conversations and leadership traits and abilities
- The chapter continues their relationship with the Office of Student Leadership Development hosting five workshops this year.
- The Office of Student Leadership Development is impressed that Phi Sigma Kappa thinks so strategically about their workshops and programs; including the entire membership in their programs, rather than “pawn” leadership workshops on their new members
- Phi Sigma Kappa has started to move forward with evaluation of their chapter and their chapter leaders. The Office of Student Leadership Development would like to see the brothers instill this as part of chapter operating procedures.
- The Office of Student Leadership Development recommends that the chapter invest in sending a brother or two to UIFI as this experience would benefit the chapter greatly.
- The chapter continues to be very involved in outside organizations including the Interfraternity Council, Leadership Lehigh, and Order of Omega
- Brian Weisser will be on the Interfraternity Council next year as the Communications Chair.
- The chapter has a solid officer transition process including a comprehensive binder and shadow period
- The chapter attended their National Leadership Convention as was awarded “Most Improved Chapter”
- The chapter has brothers in a total of 32 leadership positions in other student organizations

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

## Citizenship

- The chapter had no conduct violations this year
- The chapter focused on fulfilling one of the standards board's other primary purposes of deterring potential future problems. This was done by setting guidelines to hold brothers, alumni, and guests accountable for their actions when attending chapter functions
- The chapter implemented two standard board resolutions this year. The first being a stance on drunk driving and the second being a zero tolerance stance to illegal drug abuse and usage
- The chapter replaced their Adopt-a-Family service project with Habitat for Humanity. This was done to create more meaning to chapter brothers who wanted to give back.

- The chapter has a strong commitment to outside involvement. Almost every brother is actively involved in several organizations on campus totaling members in 64 different organizations on campus
- The chapter was very upfront about the challenges they confronted when trying to create community service partnerships within the Bethlehem community to assist with the elderly. Phi Sigma Kappa was able to identify ways to better communicate their intentions in implementing this program in the future. The committee recommends that they continue to work with the Community Service Office when they're doing more comprehensive programs in the local community to obtain assistance.
- The chapter had numerous events with Cystic Fibrosis on Campus from Muhlenberg
- The chapter implements values based recruitment into their membership selection

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

### Partnership

- Phi Sigma Kappa partners very well with both campus organizations and their Inter/National Headquarters. The chapter has hosted two regional conferences at Lehigh in the past two years.
- The chapter took advantage of the New York Times Readership program for the second year in a row. The committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter has a very strong connection and partnership with their alumni. Phi Sigma Kappa's alumni are strong promoters and partners of their academic plan as well.
- The chapter implemented an annual alumni golf outing to heighten the momentum gained from their 50<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary that was held last year.
- To increase alumni communication the chapter has created a facebook group for Phi Sig Alumni
- For the third year in a row, the chapter hosted an alumni/potential new member banquet at our house
- The chapter with Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, Phi Sigma Pi honors fraternity, and Late Night Lehigh to host a hypnotist event raising money for the Rally Foundation, a charity dedicated to fighting children's cancer
- Phi Sigma Kappa partnered with Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha in addition to the Black Student Union, Global Union, and Lambda Sigma Upsilon fraternity for a HIV/AIDS awareness day on campus
- The chapter continued their "Neighborhood Meeting" that they originally initiated last year. The meetings now have the official name of GrEIC: Greeks Exchanging Ideas for Change
- Phi Sigma Kappa participated and ran the Ritual of Initiation for the Phi Sigma Kappa colony at Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, New York. The Lehigh chapter was chosen by Phi Sigma Kappa National Headquarters to welcome a new chapter into our fraternity
- The chapter makes a continuous effort to make faculty partnerships a priority. Phi Sigma Kappa has hosted numerous faculty dinners and discussions.

- The chapter also branched outside of the Lehigh community to partner with the Cystic Fibrosis on Campus (CFC) a student group from Muhlenberg College that serves as their local chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF).
- The committee would encourage Phi Sigma Kappa to start to become more vocal issues in the community that are still not in line with what values based organizations espouse. The values that they have are ones that can influence the entire Greek community in a positive manner.

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

### **Stewardship**

- The chapter passed all life safety inspections and was formally recognized for their house conditions during formal closings in the spring by the Office of Residential Services.
- The chapter has been consistent with having a surplus in their budget.
- The chapter takes great pride in the brotherly environment that is present on a daily basis. The chapter does many activities together including house renovations, paint ball and skydiving trips
- Phi Sigma Kappa participated in every intramural sport/activity this year.
- Their house is in great shape. They don't have any financial problems. There's a report that they are dedicated to their ritual. They have a great partnership and identity with their national office.
- Overall this chapter is gold. They've done a great job this year and we hope they continue to do good things.
- They need to be the voice of this campus.

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

### **Overall Rating**

**Overall, Phi Sigma Kappa is rated Gold. Phi Sigma Kappa continues to typify what an elite chapter represents at Lehigh University. The chapter balances all aspects of fraternal living and has had a positive influence on many other organizations at Lehigh. The chapter has also begun to assume a positive external presence in collaborating with the greater Lehigh Community. The committee would like to continue to see the chapter use their influence and understanding of the issues to steer other chapters in a similar, positive direction.**

**The committee has assigned Phi Sigma Kappa an overall rating of Gold Chapter, which is considered a high level of achievement in the accreditation process, with all 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. Congratulations!**

#### **Best practices:**

- The chapter partnered with Kappa Alpha Theta to institute academic teams in order to strengthen Kappa Alpha Theta's formal scholarship plan. The committee feels that this is an excellent collaborative opportunity and considers it a best practice.

- The chapter took advantage of the New York Times Readership program for the second year in a row. The committee considers this a best practice.

**Recommendations:**

- The Office of Student Leadership Development recommends that the chapter invest in sending a brother or two to UIFI as this experience would benefit the chapter greatly.
- The chapter was very upfront about the challenges they confronted when trying to create community service partnerships within the Bethlehem community to assist with the elderly. Phi Sigma Kappa was able to identify ways to better communicate their intentions in implementing this program in the future. The committee recommends that they continue to work with the Community Service Office when they're doing more comprehensive programs in the local community to obtain assistance.