

## **ALPHA GAMMA DELTA**

### **Accreditation Report**

2014-2015

#### **Intellectual Development**

- Alpha Gamma Delta was ranked first out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the fall 2014 semester with a GPA of 3.50287, an increase of .08529 from the spring 2014 semester. The 3.50287 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Alpha Gamma Delta was ranked second out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the spring 2015 semester with a GPA of 3.46387, a decrease of .039 from the fall 2014 semester. The 3.46387 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Alpha Gamma Delta's spring 2015 new member class GPA was 3.374 ranking second out of nine Panhellenic Sororities.
- Alpha Gamma Delta had 47.6% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2014 semester and 42.3% on the Dean's List in the spring 2015 semester.
- The Committee commends the chapter for addressing the 2013-14 Accreditation question by working with Phi Delta Theta on bLUeprint. Taran Cardone led new members of both chapters through constructing their own bLUeprints and how to implement them throughout their college careers.
- The chapter reinvigorated their Scholarship Room space within the facility as part of recent renovations. The room includes chalkboards, storage, educational supplies, book cases, and a "Yay for A's" recognition wall.
- The chapter added a new academic incentive program this year: Smarty Pants. Each semester, the top five improved GPAs receive a gift card to purchase new pants.
- Alpha Gamma Delta revamped their academic mentorship program, Scholarly Squirrels. Instead of pairing members, women are placed in groups based on academic major. This proved successful as it increased the likelihood that members had shared interests.
- The chapter continues to organize a variety of programs that value and support academic success and intellectual curiosity: Scholarly Squirrel mentorship program, Life Balance 101, etiquette dinners, and professor mixers. The Committee is impressed with the diversity of events and considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Gamma Delta uses social media to promote campus events that fall into the Intellectual Development category. The Committee considers this a best practice.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:**

- **How can Alpha Gamma Delta's climate of creative curiosity and intellectual discussion be modeled to the Greek community?**

In the area of **Intellectual Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

## **Leadership Development**

- The chapter took a different and strategic approach to operations during the 2014-15 year which also impacted Accreditation. The leadership focused internally on building a better member experience and stronger sisterhood, which resulting in less programming. The Committee is pleased with the bold choice and encourages the leadership to continue in the same direction.
- The chapter hosted several Accreditation meetings throughout the year, and each academic class was responsible for planning and hosting. The goal of each meeting was rooted in strengthening sisterhood. Engaging each class in a leadership capacity as well as maintaining senior involvement is superb. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Gamma Delta utilizes a goal template form that each officer must complete prior to the start of each academic year. The template includes fall, spring, and year-long goals which are reviewed by the executive council upon returning to campus.
- The chapter requires new members to participate in "Shadow an Officer" day where each new member chooses a position to follow for a portion of the day. This allows officers to share some of the daily operations of their role as well as educate the new members about leadership within the chapter.
- Alpha Gamma Delta members continue to be very engaged with campus organizations and several members also serve in leadership capacities. One member served on the 2013-14 Panhellenic Council as Assistant Vice President of Recruitment and the 2015-16 Panhellenic President is the former chapter president. Rachel Shoulder was also recognized as the 2014-15 Outstanding Panhellenic Woman of the Year.
- The chapter maintains a strong identity within the Greek and Lehigh community. Members appear to identify strongly with their initiation class (i.e. PC '13). The Committee recommends that the leadership examine ways to balance the cohort affiliation with the multiple other experiences within Alpha Gamma Delta.

### **Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:**

- **How can the chapter share their successes and lessons learned with the campus community to build inclusive leaders?**

In the area of **Leadership Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

## **Community Development**

- The chapter engages with other Alpha Gamma Delta chapters in the area, including Lafayette College and Villanova University. The chapter also hopes to help with a colonization effort at Kutztown.
- Alpha Gamma Delta prioritized collaboration for community programming. The chapter worked with Pi Kappa Alpha to host a cooking club event for students at Broughal Middle School and participated in the new member Panhellenic progressive dinner. The Committee recognizes the decrease in the number of events hosted by the chapter which translated into increased member participation. The Committee commends the chapter and considers this a best practice.

- The chapter supported various other service and philanthropic events on campus including, but not limited to Zeta Tau Alpha's Pink Week, the Pride Walk, and Shimmy like a Kappa.
- Alpha Gamma Delta is looking to increase alumnae engagement through an annual newsletter and continues their partnership with the Lehigh Fund in thinking creatively about alumnae communication and fundraising.
- The chapter cancelled their fall philanthropy event, the Rose Gala, after much consideration. The leadership proceeded to survey members about programming which led to great reflection among the executive board and ultimately positively impacted the organization. The Committee applauds the thoughtfulness and considers using assessment data to inform chapter decision-making and operations a best practice.
- The chapter observed World Diabetes day by hosting "Downward Dogs for Diabetes." All proceeds went to the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation which supports Juvenile Diabetes research and awareness.
- Alpha Gamma Delta partnered with Sigma Phi Epsilon to volunteer at Donegan Elementary School weekly. Members play a variety of active games or sports with the students for an hour.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:**

- **What can Alpha Gamma Delta do to create a theme of philanthropy within the organization to inspire member involvement?**

In the area of **Community Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

#### **Organizational Development**

- The chapter requires every member to serve on at least one committee within the organization. By engaging each sister in decision-making and programming that directly impacts the sisterhood, members are more invested in the success of the chapter.
- The chapter communicates an explicit attendance policy and subsequent fines which each member must sign during the fall semester. This has resulted in increased accountability and clear expectations among the sisters.
- The chapter continues to be thoughtful about their implementation of the Inter/National membership development plan. The plan is comprehensive and promotes intentional experiences among each class. Leaders of each experience (Alpha, Gamma, and Delta) constantly evaluate what will be meaningful for their members in an effort to provide a fun and purpose-driven program.
- Alpha Gamma Delta's Publications Coordinator increased the chapter's social media presence via a Zeta Beta tumblr that shared over 200 photos. The tumblr was effective as a marketing tool for recruitment as well as visual documentation for chapter activities.
- The chapter hosted a resume workshop in collaboration with Career Services. The New Members particularly enjoyed learning about the resources available and how to utilize their expertise.

- Alpha Gamma Delta hosted a variety of events to foster sisterhood such as ice skating, yoga, and membership retreats in addition to recognition programs such as Superlative Awards, Super Sisters, and Hugs & Kisses. The Committee acknowledges all of these as excellent examples of self-care.
- The chapter provides multiple opportunities for new members to spend time with upper-class members throughout the first six weeks in structured, low-pressure environments allowing the ladies to fully integrate into the organization.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:**

- **In what ways can Alpha Gamma Delta continue the practice of “doing less” and “self-care” while remaining nimble operationally?**

In the area of **Organizational Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

#### **Facilities Management**

- Alpha Gamma Delta had no common damages in the 2014-15.
- The chapter approached a “greener” lifestyle in multiple dimensions, including exploring the surrounding environment and building a greater appreciation for the outdoors through weekend hikes.
- The chapter reduced their paper and plastic consumption by providing reusable coffee thermoses and water bottles to each member.
- Alpha Gamma Delta’s Green Chair shared interesting facts at each chapter meeting and began a “Meatless Monday” initiative for chapter lunch and dinner.
- The chapter joined the Fraternity Housing Corporation which works with Alpha Gamma Delta chapters nationwide. The chapter Property Coordinator liaises with this organization to assure compliance. The FHC also worked with the chapter for facility upgrades in the summer of 2014 including new furniture, technological updates, and decorations.
- The chapter revised their “out-of-house” meal plan to better assist their chef with budgeting. The new plan better aligns food perks and costs to individual members.
- The chapter was at 114% occupancy for fall 2014 and 109% occupancy for spring 2015.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:**

- **How can the chapter lead the Greek community in thinking about sustainable living beyond the walls of a facility?**

In the area of **Facilities Management**, the Committee rated Alpha Gamma Delta to be a **Gold Chapter**.

#### **Overall Rating**

**Overall, Alpha Gamma Delta has been rated a Gold chapter by the 2014-2015 Accreditation Committee.**

Alpha Gamma Delta took a deliberate step this year to focus less on the volume of activities, programs, and social events they were part of. Instead, the chapter refocused on the need to balance individual member commitments with chapter needs. The Committee commends the chapter for this difficult inward step. Additionally, the Committee would like to see Alpha Gamma Delta continue to find balance and ensure that decisions made by the chapter to do less are well-structured and communicated clearly to other stakeholders that have partnered with the chapter.

**The Accreditation committee assigns Alpha Gamma Delta an overall rating of Gold, which is considered an exceptional level of achievement in the Accreditation process, with all the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating. Congratulations!**

### **Chapter Development Questions**

- How can Alpha Gamma Delta's climate of creative curiosity and intellectual discussion be modeled to the Greek community?
- How can the chapter share their successes and lessons learned with the campus community to build inclusive leaders?
- What can Alpha Gamma Delta do to create a theme of philanthropy within the organization to inspire member involvement?
- In what ways can Alpha Gamma Delta continue the practice of "doing less" and "self-care" while remaining nimble operationally?
- How can the chapter lead the Greek community in thinking about sustainable living beyond the walls of a facility?

### **Best Practices**

- The chapter continues to organize a variety of programs that value and support academic success and intellectual curiosity: Scholarly Squirrel mentorship program, Life Balance 101, etiquette dinners and professor mixers. The Committee is impressed with the diversity of events and considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Gamma Delta uses social media to promote campus events that fall into the intellectual development category. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter hosted several Accreditation meetings throughout the year, and each academic class was responsible for planning and hosting. The goal of each meeting was rooted in strengthening sisterhood. Engaging each class in a leadership capacity as well as maintaining senior involvement is superb. The Committee considers this a best practice.
- Alpha Gamma Delta prioritized collaboration for community programming. The chapter worked with Pi Kappa Alpha to host a cooking club event for students at Broughal Middle School and participated in the new member Panhellenic progressive dinner. The Committee recognizes the decrease in the number of events hosted by the chapter which translated into increased member participation. The Committee commends the chapter and considers this a best practice.
- The chapter cancelled their fall philanthropy event, the Rose Gala, after much consideration. The leadership proceeded to survey their members about programming which led to great reflection among the executive board and ultimately positively impacted the organization. The Committee applauds the thoughtfulness

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