

ALPHA OMICRON PI

Accreditation Report

2014-2015

Intellectual Development

- Alpha Omicron Pi was ranked sixth out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the fall 2014 semester with a GPA of 3.27149, a decrease of .04942 from the spring 2014 semester. The 3.27149 GPA placed the chapter above the All Greek average.
- Alpha Omicron Pi was ranked fifth out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the spring 2015 semester with a GPA of 3.35617, an increase of .08468 from the fall 2014 semester. The 3.35617 GPA placed the chapter above the All Greek average.
- Alpha Omicron Pi's spring 2015 new member class GPA was 3.225 ranking seventh out of nine Panhellenic Sororities.
- Alpha Omicron Pi had 29.5% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2014 semester and 27.8% on the Dean's List in the spring 2015 semester.
- The chapter's president and vice president of standards attended the Alpha Omicron Pi Leadership Academy 2015 and brought back learning to share with general members, with particular focus on social media use and chapter representation in public, online forums.
- Alpha Omicron Pi routinely disseminated surveys after events to strengthen the reflection component of various learning opportunities. The Committee commends the chapter for this practice and encourages the chapter to continue to implement these surveys in the future to support reflection and learning of all members.
- Alpha Omicron Pi implemented an Academic Mentor Program, which matched new members with older, active members of similar or identical majors to serve as an additional resource and coach to provide support during times of academic stress.
- Alpha Omicron Pi generally did not program during 4 o'clocks and final exam weeks, and made significant adjustments to their New Member Education plan to mirror this effort to avoid added stress during exam times.
- Alpha Omicron Pi partnered with Alpha Tau Omega for their second collaborative Faculty Appreciation Barbeque.
- Alpha Omicron Pi sustained several programs to acknowledge and celebrate individual academic success, including a "No Skippy Jar" and their "AOPi Refrigerator" initiative. The committee believes these collective programs are a best practice.
- Alpha Omicron Pi continued its LC Speaker Series, inviting guests to speak to the membership about areas of expertise and passion. The Committee commends the chapter for implementing Intellectual Development programs beyond those solely focusing on academic success, and encourages the chapter to explore more opportunities for Intellectual Development and engagement similar to the series.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi continue to develop its programs to ensure positive impact on its members?**

In the area of **Intellectual Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

Leadership Development

- Alpha Omicron Pi has continued to send members to appropriate Inter/National Headquarters programs and retreats throughout the year, including the Leadership Institute, Leadership Academy, and International Convention.
- Alpha Omicron Pi encourages and supports members to become and remain involved on campus, as exhibited by their membership in numerous organizations, clubs, academic societies, and leadership opportunities.
- Alpha Omicron Pi worked with their Assistant Director (AD) from OFSA, Carter Gilbert, to revise and improve their New Member Education plan.
- Alpha Omicron Pi spent the semester making initial edits to their “House Points” system and plans to make further revisions over the summer for full implementation in fall 2015. The focus on the new system will be re-balancing expectations and responsibilities across all membership classes.
- Alpha Omicron Pi was conscientious about over-programming issues from past years, and the Committee commends the chapter for their efforts to strengthen and sustain positive programs without adding too many superfluous programs to their calendar.
- Alpha Omicron Pi acknowledged a disconnect between its membership classes and is working to build greater unity and support amongst its members—for example, by revising their House Points. The Committee agrees this disconnect is problematic and would like to see significant focus on this issue in the future. The Committee recommends the Chapter consider methods to motivate members to attend and genuinely engage in the community and events, perhaps beyond a points system.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi motivate its members to be genuinely and authentically engaged in events, programs, opportunities, and the general Lehigh community?**

In the area of **Leadership Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Silver Chapter**.

Community Development

- Alpha Omicron Pi continued their partnership with Sigma Chi to co-sponsor the annual 50 Hour See-Saw Marathon event, through which each chapter selects one philanthropic cause or organization as their beneficiary to split subsequently raised proceeds. This year the organizations raised over \$5,000 dollars, which was nearly double the amount raised in previous years.
- Alpha Omicron Pi also continued their partnership with Gamma Phi Beta to co-sponsor a Nomad Truck Trunk Show, and split the proceeds between their two selected philanthropic organizations.
- Alpha Omicron Pi hosted their annual “Strike Out Arthritis” event, this year opting for a dodgeball tournament instead of a whiffle ball tournament. All proceeds were

raised to support the Arthritis Foundation which focuses on supporting youth who have Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis.

- Alpha Omicron Pi hosted a dinner event with alumnae so that all could partake in the Senior to Alumnae ritual.
- Alpha Omicron Pi participated in and supported numerous programs hosted by the Greek and campus communities, including Dance Marathon, Spooktacular, Relay for Life, Adopt a Family, etc.
- The Committee commends the chapter on their sincere commitment to philanthropy, and recommends the chapter also consider ways to increase their service efforts in the future. The Committee would like to caution the chapter to not develop more events, rather find ways to develop or revise current programs to incorporate both service and philanthropic efforts.
- The Committee would also like to note that the previous year's recommendation to incorporate events which could build meaningful relationships with multicultural organizations was not addressed, and the Committee would like to reiterate this challenge as developing cultural awareness could be key to furthering learning of community and global issues.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi build in more opportunities for members' exposure to both service and cultural issues, without over-programming or degrading the quality of their annual philanthropy events?**

In the area of **Community Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

Organizational Development

- Alpha Omicron Pi made significant revisions to the structure and operations of their Leaders' Council, which proved immensely helpful in ensuring efficient and productive leadership meetings and experiences.
- Alpha Omicron Pi has several members who hold responsibility positions on the Leaders' Council and Cabinet. The Committee is concerned about this structure and minimally-spread responsibility amongst members. The Committee thinks spreading these roles out is an opportunity the chapter should consider exploring.
- Alpha Omicron Pi actively utilizes their standards board to maintain accountability of the chapter and its members when necessary. The chapter ensures proper management of its standards processes through the attendance of an Alumnae Advisor at all procedures.
- Alpha Omicron Pi was intentional in seeking out critical feedback from multiple stakeholders, including their Leadership Consultant, advisors, and general members. The Chapter made relevant changes throughout the year based on this feedback.
- Alpha Omicron Pi worked closely with their Inter/National Headquarters to understand the process for restructuring their Alumni Advisory Committee, which has made a significant impact on the members' sense of support from their Alumnae.
- Alpha Omicron Pi developed a strong and honest relationship with their Assistant Director from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, Carter Gilbert, and through

this relationship the chapter was able to proactively address concerns of organizational management, membership morale, and hazing prevention and awareness. The Committee considers the building of this relationship and subsequent outcomes to be a best practice.

- Alpha Omicron Pi acknowledges the negative effects of division between member classes, and is actively working to reduce these effects while improving experiences of the general membership as a whole.
- The Committee would like to commend the chapter for honestly and openly acknowledging their shortcomings and identifying areas of growth for the future. The Committee is concerned about the division between member classes and thinks the chapter should utilize their newly developed and improved relationships with their AD and Alumnae Advisors to address these challenges.
- The Committee finds it imperative to comment on the quality of the Chapter's submitted materials to accompany their Accreditation presentation. The report was careless with multiple mistakes, incorrect dates, and events listed from previous years that did not occur this year. Additionally, the audience seemed disengaged and uninterested during the presentation portion. The Committee strongly encourages the chapter to make greater effort to represent their efforts in the future.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi contribute to the Greek community's success by appropriately sharing its experiences with making improvements to practice?**

In the area of **Organizational Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

Facilities Management

- Alpha Omicron Pi's common damages for 2014-15 was \$1106.62.
- Alpha Omicron Pi successfully managed the utilization of extra furniture in the chapter facility.
- The chapter took an active role in managing their capital projects, especially new flooring throughout the facility.
- Alpha Omicron Pi has made strides to ensure sustainability of its facilities, particularly by paying greater attention to electricity usage, recycling practices, and making strategic upgrades from Styrofoam to plastic/glass/reusable materials where appropriate.
- Alpha Omicron Pi supported its sustainability efforts by performing a waste audit. The Committee commends the chapter on this practice, and encourages this practice be performed annually to make continue upgrades and improvements as necessary.
- Alpha Omicron Pi implemented "Meatless Mondays" to help combat the negative effects the meat industry has on the environment, especially as related to land use, green-house gas production, and water consumption.
- Alpha Omicron Pi provides its off-campus senior members with the opportunity to take specially purchased groceries and packaged leftovers to their off-campus residences, which supports these members' transitions to living off-campus and also cuts down on waste of leftover food.

- Alpha Omicron Pi continues to explore opportunities for its House Manager and other appropriate leaders to receive training to ensure the appropriate monitoring of the facility quarters and members' live-in experiences.

Chapter Development Question for 2015-16:

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi become a leader in the Greek community when it comes to matters of facilities management and sustainability efforts?**

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

Overall Rating

Overall, Alpha Omicron Pi has been rated a Bronze chapter by the 2014-2015 Accreditation Committee.

The Committee recommends the chapter focus on determining how to maintain its strong practices, while improving the experiences of its members and impact on the community. The Chapter has likewise identified and acknowledged many of its own internal areas for improvement and growth and the Committee encourages the chapter to act in these areas with confidence, assertion, and urgency, while utilizing the support and coaching of their advising resources. It is admirable to be able to admit critical areas of weakness, and especially wise to consult with all relevant stakeholders in these processes; the true measure of success will come when the chapter is able to showcase their improvements based on commitment to acting accordingly to this feedback.

The Accreditation committee assigns Alpha Omicron Pi an overall rating of Bronze, which is considered a high level of achievement in the Accreditation process, with all the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating.

Chapter Development Questions

- How can Alpha Omicron Pi continue to develop its programs to ensure positive impact on its members?
- How can Alpha Omicron Pi motivate its members to be genuinely and authentically engaged in events, programs, opportunities, and the general Lehigh community?
- How can Alpha Omicron Pi build in more opportunities for members' exposure to both service and cultural issues, without over-programming or degrading the quality of their annual philanthropy events?
- How can Alpha Omicron Pi contribute to the Greek community's success by appropriately sharing its experiences with making improvements to practice?
- How can Alpha Omicron Pi become a leader in the Greek community when it comes to matters of facilities management and sustainability efforts?

Best Practices

- Alpha Omicron Pi sustained several programs to acknowledge and celebrate individual academic success, including a "No Skippy Jar" and their "AOPi Refrigerator" initiative. The committee believes these collective programs are a best practice.

- Alpha Omicron Pi developed a strong and honest relationship with their Assistant Director from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, Carter Gilbert, and through this relationship the chapter was able to proactively address concerns of organizational management, membership morale, and hazing prevention and awareness. The Committee considers the building of this relationship and subsequent outcomes to be a best practice.