

## **ALPHA OMICRON PI**

Accreditation Report

2016-2017

### **Leadership & Member Development**

- Alpha Omicron Pi reflected on the Leader Council's operations and made changes to support the chapter; adjusting the time of meetings to better accommodate members, creating an Events Chairman to assist with programming, moving elections, and adding a junior Panhellenic delegate position.
- The chapter sent members to various conferences hosted by Alpha Omicron Pi's International Headquarters staff. The chapter had representation at the Alpha Omicron Pi Leadership Academy and sent four members to the Alpha Omicron Pi Northeast Weekend Convention.
- Alpha Omicron Pi encouraged members to engage in campus leadership opportunities. The chapter sponsored a member to participate in LeaderShape in January 2017, had three members join the Greek Emerging Leaders (GEM) program, and one serve as a GEM Mentor.
- The chapter continued making ritual meaningful and relevant for members. To ensure this, the Keeper of the Ritual position was added as a member of the Leader's Council, the executive board for Alpha Omicron Pi. The Keeper of the Ritual hosted a ritual workshop each semester in which members were able to reflect and define the meaning of the ritual. The committee commends Alpha Omicron Pi for hosting ritual workshops.
- Alpha Omicron Pi needed to revamp the new member education plan as required by their International Headquarters. The chapter focused heavily on ensuring that new members felt welcomed and included by current members, as well as stressing the importance of the anti-hazing policy with an Anti-Hazing Workshop. This change is supported by the fact that zero hazing allegations were reported against the chapter.
- Alpha Omicron Pi hosted sisterhood events throughout the year managed by the Vice President of Chapter Development. Some of these events included pumpkin picking, a Secret Stella Holiday Dinner, and Super Bowl Sunday.
- Alpha Omicron Pi had a Leadership Consultant visit the chapter. Some things the consultant noted for the chapter to improve included forming a stronger connection to greater fraternity traditions and continuing to work on senior engagement and presence in the chapter. Overall, the chapter received a positive review from the consultant.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:**

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi use the chapter's social capital and influence to lead positive change within the Greek community?**

In the area of **Leadership & Member Development**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

### **Organizational Operations**

- Alpha Omicron Pi was placed on monitoring by International Headquarters for the hazing allegations in 2015-2016. In order to pass monitoring the chapter needed to achieve a Gold

level on their Standards of Excellence accreditation. The chapter achieved the Pearl level meaning they achieved 98-100% of organizational goals.

- The chapter hosted a member retreat before formal recruitment to bring members together and focus on values based recruitment. The chapter under invited to preference round, which resulted in a new member class with 24 women which was three below quota of 27. The chapter participated in continuous open bidding where three women accepted membership into Alpha Omicron Pi, meeting quota.
- The chapter invited the Associate Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs to provide training to reinforce policies on alcohol and hazing prevention. The chapter updated the Crisis Management Policy for the spring semester, and sent to all members via email. The chapter also provided Risk Management Training to sisters and new members.
- The chapter's Vice President of Standards streamlined processes to increase communication by creating a new system of submitting excuses for missed events. The board also adjusting the seating arrangement for meetings to make it more conducive for productive conversation. Lastly, the point distribution was changed to increase equity across the chapter. The committee commends Alpha Omicron Pi for their revisions of standards.
- The chapter has requirements and goals set by Alpha Omicron Pi headquarters entitled the Standards of Excellence. In past years, the chapter did not pay attention to the Standards of Excellence requirements which resulted in the chapter being unaccredited. This year, the chapter focused on completing these goals and achieved the Pearl level, the highest level an Alpha Omicron Pi chapter can achieve.
- Alpha Omicron Pi made changes to the bylaws. The chapter elected their first sophomore president. This led to changing the order in which rooms are picked within the house. The chapter also evaluated the duties of the Leader's Council and determined the ranking of positions if the President is unavailable in any given situation.
- The committee commends Alpha Omicron Pi on the numerous changes that have been made within the chapter, but wonders if the entire membership supports the changes. The committee's perception is that the changes are being led by a small group of leaders without getting buy-in from general members.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:**

- **How is Alpha Omicron Pi sharing successes with other chapters in order to benefit the Greek community?**

In the area of **Organizational Operations**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

#### **Community Service & Engagement**

- Alpha Omicron Pi focused on improving current events rather than creating new ones. The chapter ensured philanthropic engagement was more meaningful for both members and the organizations by working with causes that directly impacted members, such as lung cancer. The committee commends the chapter on being more intentional with philanthropy.
- Alpha Omicron Pi put a lot of effort in raising money for Relay for Life, after a chapter member lost their mother to cancer, totaling \$59,289.39. They were the number one team in dollars donated.
- Alpha Omicron Pi worked with Alpha Chi Omega and co-hosted a pageant for males on campus, Mountain Hunk. The intent of the pageant is for the Greek community to come

together and support various causes in a fun, competitive way. Mountain Hunk raised \$2,105.40 which Alpha Omicron Pi and Alpha Chi Omega split to send to an organization of their choice. Alpha Omicron Pi donated to their national philanthropy, the Arthritis Foundation.

- The chapter held the annual See Saw event with Sigma Chi for the Lung Cancer Alliance. Both organizations see-sawed in front of the flagpole for 19 hours and raised awareness for the Lung Cancer Alliance by wearing bracelets. The total raised was \$12,558, a record for the chapter.
- The chapter continued to partner with Lambda Theta Alpha by working on the Bandana Project, which brings awareness of the sexual abuse of female migrant workers. The chapter supported Lambda Theta Alpha by purchasing the bandanas for the project. The committee feels that the chapter can do more to create a meaningful partnership with the sorority beyond financial support.
- Alpha Omicron Pi engages in various events with the Community Service Office. Some of these events include Adopt-A-Family, tutoring at Broughal Middle School, and Spooktacular. They also participated in Lehigh's Dance Marathon, and assisted in making meals to serve homeless veteran men at Victory House.
- Alpha Omicron Pi continued to socialize with an unrecognized organization. The chapter discussed how associating with unrecognized groups affects the chapter. That discussion helped strengthen sisterhood as well as illustrated the importance of communication and transparency to chapter leadership.
- The committee notes that Alpha Omicron Pi does not do any direct service within the Bethlehem community. The chapter's current engagement is not on a consistent basis. The committee encourages the chapter to find a connection to make a lasting impact within the community. With this, Alpha Omicron Pi will have a better understanding of their role in both the Lehigh and Bethlehem communities.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:**

- **How can the chapter create opportunities for sustained and meaningful direct service?**

In the area of **Community Service & Engagement**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

#### **Academic & Intellectual Advancement**

- Alpha Omicron Pi was ranked fifth out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the fall 2016 semester with a GPA of 3.40864, an increase of .11397 from the spring 2016 semester. The 3.40864 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Alpha Omicron Pi was ranked second out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the spring 2017 semester with a GPA of 3.43, an increase of .02136 from the fall 2016 semester. The 3.43 GPA placed the chapter above the All Sorority and All Greek average.
- Alpha Omicron Pi's spring 2017 new member class GPA was 3.21 ranking sixth out of nine Panhellenic Sororities.
- Alpha Omicron Pi had 42% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2016 semester and 34.9% on the Dean's List in the spring 2017 semester.
- The chapter's academic plan intends to inspire good study habits among members, maintain academic accountability within the chapter, and provide members with the tools they need to

be academically successful. All members must maintain a 2.5 GPA. If members earn below a 2.5 semester GPA, they are placed on academic monitoring, and the Vice President of Academic Development meets with those members monthly.

- Alpha Omicron Pi implemented a new tutoring system for members. The Vice President of Academics created a spreadsheet with all of the members who expressed interest in tutoring and received a B or higher in the class. This spreadsheet was accessible to all members. Members that chose to tutor received house points.
- The chapter had a member of the Students Promoting Equality, Awareness, and Knowledge (SPEAK) group attend a chapter meetings to lead a conversation about the stigma around Greek Life and the acceptance of the LGBTQ community. Members stated that they left with more of an open mind and a new outlook on how to treat others.
- The chapter provided an opportunity for members that studied abroad to talk about the experience and what they learned during that time. This aimed to encourage younger members to study abroad and to step outside of their comfort zone by choosing non-traditional locations.
- Alpha Omicron Pi took on a new faculty advisor who teaches Statistical Methods with Business Applications. She attends chapter meetings and assists with the chapter's spring elections. The chapter also engages with faculty across Lehigh by hosting a Faculty Bar B Que with Alpha Tau Omega to demonstrate appreciation.
- Alpha Omicron Pi acknowledges members academic successes during chapter meetings using the "No Skippy Jar". At each chapter meeting, the Vice President of Academic Development passes around a jar in which members can submit names if they did not skip any classes that week. The winner receives a \$5 gift card to Saxby's.
- The committee commends Alpha Omicron Pi for increasing the chapter GPA as well as the creation and execution of the new tutoring system. The committee also notes that there is an opportunity to connect with campus resources, such as the Center for Academic Success, to better support the tutors.
- The committee feels that intellectual development beyond the classroom is limited to a small percentage of membership and suggests that these opportunities are spread across the entire chapter.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:**

- **How does Alpha Omicron Pi encourage connections between academic and intellectual development across the entire sisterhood and provide members the opportunity for reflection?**

In the area of **Academic & Intellectual Advancement**, the Committee rated Alpha Omicron Pi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

#### **Facilities Management**

- Alpha Omicron Pi had no common damages for 2016-2017.
- Alpha Omicron Pi managed openings and closings with no issues.
- Alpha Omicron Pi passed life safety inspections and fire drills with zero violations.
- The chapter has an Eco rep that keeps members accountable for recycling within the house. The facility has separate containers for plastic bag recycling, battery recycling, and ink cartridges to assist with sustainability efforts.

- The chapter wanted to increase respect for the facility amongst members, so the chapter made various house improvements by buying new furniture for the living room, painting the basement, and getting décor for the house.
- The chapter house manager attended all meetings hosted by Residential Services, and has reached out for assistance with issues such as broken heat, plumbing, and malfunctioning locks.
- The committee believes that the chapter can go beyond recycling to incorporate additional green initiatives within the facility and recommends reaching out to other chapters for ideas and support.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:**

- **How can Alpha Omicron Pi use the facility to be a living-learning community?**

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

#### **Overall Rating**

**Overall, Alpha Omicron Pi has been rated an Accredited chapter by the 2016-2017 Accreditation Committee.**

Alpha Omicron Pi began the year knowing that change was needed, which prompted major improvements within the chapter regarding operations. This aligned with the theme of inward focus with the hopes of rebranding the chapter to both headquarters and the Lehigh community. The committee is very impressed with the amount of dollars the chapter raised for a cause that affected a sister. Outside of philanthropic efforts, the committee feels like the chapter is simply existing and not pursuing new or creative opportunities for members. The committee recommends that the chapter incorporate reflection in multiple areas of operations such as intellectual development, community service and campus engagement. The committee feels that the chapter remains reactive instead of proactive. The chapter had built positive momentum, being in good standing with headquarters. The committee believes that momentum coupled with the chapter's social capital within the Greek community could make Alpha Omicron Pi an example for other organizations.

**The Accreditation committee assigns Alpha Omicron Pi an overall rating of Accredited, which meets expectations set forth by Lehigh University. The chapter is fully successful in all metrics and is an active contributor to the Greek and Lehigh communities.**

#### **Chapter Development Questions**

- How can Alpha Omicron Pi use the chapter's social capital and influence to lead positive change within the Greek community?
- How is Alpha Omicron Pi sharing successes with other chapters in order to benefit the Greek community?
- How can the chapter create opportunities for sustained and meaningful direct service?
- How does Alpha Omicron Pi encourage connections between academic and intellectual development across the entire sisterhood and provide members the opportunity for reflection?
- How can Alpha Omicron Pi use the facility to be a living-learning community?