

SIGMA CHI

Accreditation Report
2016-2017

Leadership & Member Development

- Sigma Chi has a strong presence within the Interfraternity Council (IFC) community. During the 2016-2017 academic year, one member served as the IFC Treasurer. For the 2017-2018 academic year, two chapter members were elected as IFC President and Vice President of Judicial Affairs.
- Sigma Chi played an active role in advocating for revised social policies during the fall semester. The chapter hosted social events to test-run proposed edits to the current social policy and several members also volunteered as monitors for these efforts. As part of a sanction, the chapter later developed a social pilot best practices presentation with Sigma Phi Epsilon that was highly regarded by Lehigh administration and the IFC community.
- One hundred percent of members are involved in other organizations on campus including the Finance Club, Club Baseball, Association of Latino Professionals, and the Gryphon Society.
- The chapter had five of their members attend Sigma Chi Headquarters' Balfour Leadership Training Workshop in Ohio. Attendees developed a strategic plan focused around problem areas of the chapter, specifically responsibility and accountability. Due to these problem areas, they also invited two risk chairmen to attend in order to lay a strong foundation for risk mitigation moving forward.
- Sigma Chi collaborated with Art Berg, their North East Coordinator, Josh Hartman, their past Grand Praetor, and Corey Gant, Assistant Director in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, to incorporate Sigma Chi Headquarters' newly released Preparation for Brotherhood (P4B) online new member education program into their traditional local program.
- The chapter continued their use of position write-ups as one method for officer transitions. In addition, they created event write-ups to document best practices. These write-ups contain necessary procedures for event set-up, timelines, and risk management. The committee applauds the chapter and considers this a best practice.
- Sigma Chi engaged with organizations of various cultures by volunteering for the Black Student Union's Fashion Show, attending Cultural Greek Council's Yard Shows, and participating in Sigma Gamma Rho's Benefit for Babies philanthropy.
- The committee recommends that Sigma Chi encourage its members to engage in leadership development opportunities available through Lehigh (i.e. Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute, LeaderShape, and the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values annual conference).

Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:

- **Knowing that Sigma Chi has a strong presence in the IFC community, how can they use their social capital to engage other IFC groups in leadership development opportunities?**

In the area of **Leadership & Member Development**, the Committee rated Sigma Chi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Organizational Operations

- Sigma Chi focused their strategic plan for the year on SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound) goal setting. The chapter involved multiple stakeholders including the past Grand Consul and Pro Consul of the International Fraternity as well as the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs to gather insight.
- Sigma Chi revamped their judicial process by pushing beyond solely monetary, punitive sanctions towards a more restorative system. The chapter focused these efforts around giving every member a voice in improving accountability in their judicial system, as well as incorporated advice from both Holly Taylor, Associate Director for the Office of Student Conduct and Community Expectations, and Counseling Services. The committee commends the chapter on these efforts.
- The chapter participated in Lehigh's first session of bystander intervention training in the fall semester hosted by the former Director of Health Advancement and Prevention Strategies Office, Pete Costa. The chapter continued conversations during chapter meals such as personal examples of when bystander intervention might have made a difference in a member's life.
- The committee commends the chapter on continuing their annual alumni dinner during recruitment which garnered a record turnout in terms of both alumni and potential new members. Sigma Chi specifically focused on seeking out potential new members that embodied the Sigma Chi values of good character, good morals, and ambitious purposes and were able to recruit and initiate 18 men.
- Sigma Chi invited Brother Art Berg, the North East Coordinator, to speak to the chapter about concepts of accountability and responsibility. Through this conversation, the chapter revisited potential outcomes and repercussions of chapter actions and how those actions impact others in order to inform their decision-making process.
- Sigma Chi instituted a new chapter point system this year to address previous problem areas of the chapter. For example, the chapter has begun to topple some seniority-first traditions by determining shifts for their events/programs based off points.
- The committee applauds the chapter for the progress it has made in organizational operations, specifically risk management and judicial processes. The committee recommends that the chapter review/revise chapter bylaws in order to ensure sustainability of progress made.

Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:

- **How can the chapter assess the changes made in organizational processes in order to inform practice in future years?**

In the area of **Organizational Operations**, the Committee rated Sigma Chi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Community Service & Engagement

- Sigma Chi partnered with Trinity Soup Kitchen, and members prepared meals, served patrons, and cleaned the dining room. Additionally, the chapter invited community leaders and volunteers from the Soup Kitchen to dinner at the Sigma Chi house to get to know one another and share about the community partner they served.
- The chapter members collectively completed over 750 hours of community service through participation in programs such as Parents Night Out, Freshman Move-In, and Homework

Club. The chapter also worked with the Allentown branch of the Boys and Girls Club of America since the Bethlehem location receives the majority of outreach from other Lehigh organizations. The committee recommends the chapter provide opportunity to reflect on service experiences.

- Sigma Chi hosted their annual Seesaw philanthropy event in collaboration with Alpha Omicron Pi. The chapters raised over \$12,000 for the Lung Cancer Alliance on behalf of a family member of one of the Alpha Omicron Pi sisters. The committee commends the chapter for raising a large sum and challenges Sigma Chi to use such a successful event to educate on the cause of the event in the future. The committee notes the concerns expressed about the perception of members drinking at the event.
- Sigma Chi revamped their Derby Days philanthropy. The chapter sparked conversations at council meetings to discuss how Derby Days historically contributes to sexism within the larger community. As a result, the chapter incorporated feedback provided by the councils to create a more inclusive and successful event such as dance competition judges outside of Sigma Chi membership.
- The chapter had an alumna host a leadership workshop for the brotherhood. During this workshop members discovered their leadership styles and were pushed out of their comfort zones to develop varied perspective and understanding. This is just one of many instances the chapter engaged alumni. Other examples include goal-setting, recruitment, weekly chapter meetings, and chapter dinners at the house.
- Sigma Chi was placed on Deferred Dissolution through December 18, 2017 and Disciplinary Probation until May 18, 2018 after being found responsible for two counts of the following: Respect for Self--unauthorized consumption, distribution, or possession; Respect for Community--irresponsible distribution of alcohol; and Respect for Community--encouraging others. One incident involved an underage student that was intoxicated, staggering, and had been drinking with Sigma Chi. Another incident involved a highly intoxicated and unresponsive student found lying outside with serious head trauma. He was transported to St. Luke's and taken into ICU. He had been drinking off campus with Sigma Chi. The second incident was implicated as one of the close calls that triggered a response from the President's Office. The committee recommends the chapter address these issues with a strong sense of urgency. It is evident that bystander intervention is clearly not resonating with chapter members and these instances could likely have been avoided if members stepped in when members and guests needed assistance.
- Sigma Chi hosted its first ever Zorb Soccer Tournament co-hosted with Alpha Phi and in collaboration with Lehigh After Dark. Even though the event was a success, the chapter has already begun to focus on ways to improve the event next year including better advertising and organization of teams that are involved.
- The chapter received noise complaint notices in both the fall and spring semesters for disturbing the South Bethlehem community. The committee urges the chapter to consider how such instances impact the credibility of their strong service efforts in the community.

Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:

- **How can the chapter work to be more proactive in developing members' capacity for intervention and personal responsibility?**

In the area of **Community Service & Engagement**, the Committee rated Sigma Chi to be an **Unacceptable Chapter**.

Academic & Intellectual Advancement

- Sigma Chi was ranked fourth out of 17 Interfraternity Council chapters in the fall 2016 semester with a GPA of 3.21875, an increase of .02658 from the spring 2016 semester. The 3.21875 GPA placed the chapter above the All Fraternity average.
- Sigma Chi was ranked second out of 17 Interfraternity Council chapters in the spring 2017 semester with a GPA of 3.22, an increase of .00125 from the fall 2016 semester. The 3.22 GPA placed the chapter above the All Fraternity and All Greek average.
- Sigma Chi's spring 2017 new member class GPA was 2.99 ranking fifth out of 17 Interfraternity Council chapters.
- Sigma Chi had 33.9% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2016 semester and 20.3% on the Dean's List in the spring 2017 semester.
- The chapter revamped their Brother Mentor program this year. In the past younger brothers were paired up with older brothers of the same major. The revised program brings together all brothers of the same major into one group to discuss issues, resources, and class topics. This was done through the reservation of rooms on campus for major-specific study hours which increased intellectual discussion outside of the classroom.
- Sigma Chi recognizes that in the past they have extremely underutilized faculty advisors. The chapter reached out to Professor Sharon Kalafut, Computer Science and Business as well as a mother of an alumnus, to be their new faculty advisor. This is extremely beneficial for the chapter as she teaches courses for one of the most popular majors in the chapter.
- The chapter planned an academic dinner with Gamma Phi Beta to be hosted at Hotel Bethlehem. The dinner gives members the opportunity to discuss academic life and growth with faculty and another chapter on campus. The committee is happy to hear the chapter engage with faculty outside of the classroom and recommends maximizing the potential of this event by inviting campus partners to participate as well.
- Sigma Chi continued one of their featured programs, Miller Mandates. This year's topics included the presidential election, free speech versus inclusivity, artificial intelligence and ethics, and the economic consequences of decarbonizing energy systems. The committee considers this a best practice and recommends the chapter capitalize on this initiative through 5x10s and recruitment events.
- The chapter placed a strong emphasis on connecting members to academic resources and opportunities this year. The chapter's Scholarship Chairman met with the Director of the Center for Academic Success, Katie Robinson, to discuss test taking strategies and time management skills that he then used in a presentation to the chapter.
- The chapter promoted professional development through the use of a resume workshop hosted by alumni that serve as college recruiters. The chapter also offered the Fit Living House the opportunity to join them for the workshop. The committee considers this a best practice and an excellent example of 365 recruitment.

Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:

- **How can Sigma Chi share its innovative academic and intellectual advancement strategies with the larger community?**

In the area of **Academic & Intellectual Advancement**, the Committee rated Sigma Chi to be an **Accredited with Excellence Chapter**.

Facilities Management

- Sigma Chi's common damages for the year were \$346.60.
- Sigma Chi managed openings and closings with no issues.
- Sigma Chi passed life safety inspections and fire drills with zero violations.
- The chapter successfully met occupancy for the both the fall and spring semesters.
- Sigma Chi has a strong relationship with their house chef. This year the chapter's treasurer worked with their chef to develop a healthier menu that is locally sourced with fresh ingredients. As a result, the two were able to terminate contracts with a few national distributors and purchase food and kitchen supplies from local businesses.
- The chapter decided to proactively address their fire issues from last year. In doing so they invited Chris Ottey, Assistant Director of Residential Services, to the house to discuss fire safety protocols such as the use of fire suppression systems in the kitchen.
- Sigma Chi participated in an opportunity afforded by a collaboration between the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, the Pride Center, and Residential Services to convert all of their single-stall restrooms within their facility into gender-inclusive restrooms.
- Sigma Chi continued their participation in the Eco-Rep Leadership Program. The chapter eliminated all Styrofoam products from the house and replaced them with paper products.
- Sigma Chi had one fire incident in their kitchen in the fall semester. The member involved used the fire suppression system appropriately and the Lehigh University Police Department confirmed the chapter acted accordingly with the issue.
- The chapter's house managers received the House Manager of the Year award from the Office of Residential Services. The committee commends the chapter on development made in facilities management.

Chapter Development Question for 2017-2018:

- **What measures can Sigma Chi put in place to sustain the progress they have made in treating their facility with respect?**

In the area of **Facilities Management**, the Committee rated Sigma Chi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Sigma Chi has been rated an Accredited chapter by the 2016-2017 Accreditation Committee.

The committee highly commends Sigma Chi on the progress it has made in the last academic year. It is apparent that the chapter took the time to assess the major areas of concern within the chapter so they could be intentional in creating solutions. While the chapter is leading the way in community service and philanthropy, the chapter needs to take the final steps in depleting conduct issues that impact their credibility in the realm of civic engagement. Sigma Chi is in a great place on both the leadership development and judicial fronts and could help push the community forward by sharing these practices. The committee believes they have positioned themselves well to do so based on their social capital and commitment to IFC as long as they maintain focus and sustain all of their hard work.

The Accreditation committee assigns Sigma Chi 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

- Knowing that Sigma Chi has a strong presence in the IFC community, how can they use their social capital to engage other IFC groups in leadership development opportunities
- How can the chapter assess the changes made in organizational processes in order to inform practice in future years?
- How can the chapter work to be more proactive in developing members' capacity for intervention and personal responsibility?
- How can Sigma Chi share its innovative academic and intellectual advancement strategies with the larger community?
- What measures can Sigma Chi put in place to sustain the progress they have made in treating their facility with respect?

Best Practices

- The chapter continued their use of position write-ups as one method for officer transitions. In addition, they created event write-ups to document best practices. These write-ups contain necessary procedures for event set-up, timelines, and risk management. The committee applauds the chapter and considers this a best practice.
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- The chapter promoted professional development through the use of a resume workshop hosted by alumni that serve as college recruiters. The chapter also offered the Fit Living House the opportunity to join them for the workshop. The committee considers this a best practice and an excellent example of 365 recruitment.