

## **PI BETA PHI**

Accreditation Report  
2017-2018

### **Leadership & Member Development**

- Pi Beta Phi members attended Pi Beta Phi College Weekend, an annual conference hosted by Headquarters. The Vice President of Administration attended various sessions focused on accountability and risk management. After returning to campus, she incorporated these learnings into the reorganization of the member accountability process.
- The committee applauds the chapter for fully participating in Pi Beta Phi rituals and for providing explicit examples in the report. The committee would have appreciated to hear reflections or testimonials from 1 of the 8 new members awarded a pearl for exemplifying organizational values.
- The chapter continued utilization of a longer transition period starting in the fall with new officers taking over at beginning of the calendar year. Additionally, chapter leadership participated in an officer retreat at the home of an Alumni Advisory Committee member to discuss transition documents and set goals.
- The committee recommends that the chapter engage members in leadership development opportunities outside of those provided by Headquarters (i.e. Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute, LeaderShape, Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values annual conference).
- The chapter had two members serve on the 2017-2018 Panhellenic Council. One sister served as the Vice President of Campus Relations while another served as Vice President of Greek Relations. However, Pi Beta Phi did not have members apply and will be the only chapter without representation on the 2018-2019 Panhellenic Council executive board.
- The committee is impressed with the creation of the senior member coordinator as a means to address engagement and information sharing between member classes. Through the development of this role, senior members participated in a finance for young professionals presentation about managing budgets after graduation.
- The committee is concerned with the emphasis that the report placed on gifts during big and little reveal and recommends relooking at this practice to focus on developing meaningful relationships between members.
- Pi Beta Phi's new member education program incorporates campus resources and collaborations with other organizations. Emphasis is also placed on bonding as a chapter during this time through the use of signature events (i.e. murder mystery party), Beta Buddies and Guardian Angels which serve as sophomore and junior member mentors respectively. However, the committee was disappointed in the lack of participation in New Member 101 hosted by the Panhellenic Council.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:**

- **How does Pi Beta Phi continue to develop members after the new member education period?**

In the area of **Leadership & Member Development**, the committee rated Pi Beta Phi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

## **Organizational Operations**

- Pi Beta Phi remains vigilant with financial transparency among membership. Once the budget and dues are finalized, the Vice President of Finance leads a presentation to explain where funds are going and shifts from previous years. This year the chapter voted to have only one date party in order to reserve funds for the upcoming year.
- The chapter utilizes an Angel on Duty initiative to coordinate an on-call emergency contact rotation. The Angel on Duty is also responsible for walking through the facility at the end of the night to ensure food is put away, appliances are shut off, and garbage is appropriately disposed of. The committee commends the chapter for this program and believes it is an effective risk management tool to promote facility upkeep and members' safety.
- The committee is concerned with the number of women that either chose not to affiliate or later disaffiliated with the chapter as a result of the primary recruitment process. However, Pi Beta Phi participated in continuous open bidding to quickly offer membership bids to four women so they could fully participate in new member education.
- Pi Beta Phi requires members to attend a risk meeting the week leading up to all date parties and formals. During this meeting, emphasis is placed on the shared responsibility of members and their dates to ensure a safe event. If members or their guests do not follow policy, they will meet with the policy and standards board. The committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter updates bylaws annually to reflect progress and changes occurring within the chapter. For example, bylaws were revised to update guidelines in regards to serving as a risk monitor for date parties and formals.
- The committee commends Pi Beta Phi for being intentional in keeping senior members engaged. Every Sunday at chapter, a senior of the week is announced. Seniors can be recognized for a variety of positive contributions including mentoring younger members, heavily participating in chapter events or leading chapter discussions.
- The chapter increased social media presence, specifically on Instagram, in order to engage more of the Lehigh community as well as alumnae and families of members. This platform is utilized to market significant upcoming events as well as share accomplishments made by sisters.

### **Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:**

- **How does the chapter set goals to ensure they continue to add value to the Greek, Lehigh, and South Bethlehem communities?**

In the area of **Organizational Operations**, the committee rated Pi Beta Phi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

## **Community Service & Engagement**

- The committee commends Pi Beta Phi for recognizing that Pi Phi Gives You Wings needed work in order to be a successful event. The chapter took the necessary steps to develop this initiative into a tailgate event during a home football game. Pi Beta Phi raised \$350 for Read>Lead>Achieve, the chapter's national philanthropy promoting literacy throughout America and Canada.
- The chapter requires every member to complete a minimum of eight service hours per semester. The committee recommends the chapter play a more active role in the Bethlehem

community utilizing their national philanthropy as a platform to engage in literacy with local children. This is a repeated recommendation.

- Pi Beta Phi participates in multiple campus and local philanthropic events including Dance Marathon, Adopt-A-Family, Broughal Middle School dinners, and Relay for Life.
- Pi Beta Phi received a Panhellenic infraction for violating the Panhellenic Community Standards by participating in events with an unrecognized group. As a result, the chapter was sanctioned to revamp the chapter communication plan, require the social chair to attend executive board meetings, and educate the chapter on social host and Panhellenic policies specifically as it pertains to events with unrecognized groups.
- The chapter hosted their annual Pi Day event in partnership with Kappa Alpha. Sisters agreed to be pied by community members in order to raise money for their national philanthropy, Read>Lead>Achieve.
- The committee urges Pi Beta Phi to move away from the language of “house” when referring to the organization and shift emphasis to integrating the word “chapter” to describe overall membership as well as be inclusive of chapters within the community that are not residential.
- Pi Beta Phi hosted their second annual parents’ weekend. The chapter invited parents and families to partake in a barbeque during a home football game. This year the chapter also included more formal programming in the weekend including a question and answer period with the executive board.
- The committee is concerned about members’ overuse of alcohol shared in the report that led to serious health consequences and implores the chapter to look more broadly at chapter traditions, practices and culture in order to determine what systems in place might support or endorse this behavior.
- Pi Beta Phi works collaboratively with an Alumnae Advisory Committee (AAC) to assess success of multiple areas of the chapter including officer transitions, primary recruitment and the chapter’s policy and standards board.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:**

- **How can Pi Beta Phi develop chapter efforts towards service in the South Bethlehem community?**

In the area of **Community Service & Engagement**, the committee rated Pi Beta Phi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

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

- Pi Beta Phi was ranked sixth out of nine Panhellenic Sororities in the fall 2017 semester with a GPA of 3.36, an increase of 0.01 from the spring 2017 semester. The 3.36 GPA placed the chapter above the All Greek average.
- Pi Beta Phi was ranked fifth out of eight Panhellenic Sororities in the spring 2018 semester with a GPA of 3.35, a decrease of 0.01 from the fall 2017 semester. The 3.35 GPA placed the chapter above the All Greek average.
- Pi Beta Phi’s spring 2018 new member class GPA was 3.31 ranking fourth out of eight Panhellenic Sororities.
- Pi Beta Phi had 36% of the chapter on the Dean’s List in the fall 2017 semester and 30.4% on the Dean’s List in the spring 2018 semester.

- The committee challenges Pi Beta Phi to consider revisiting the social probation that occurs as a result of academic underperformance to include weekday social events. These events likely play a larger role in impacting academic success of members than date parties and formals.
- The chapter continued both the “Smart Cookie Jar” and “Caffeine Queen” positive academic incentive initiatives. Members can either submit high performance grades on assignments or nominate a fellow sister for commitment to academics. Winners receive a gift certificate to either Vegan Treats or Dunkin Donuts.
- The committee recommends that the chapter increase efforts in academic and intellectual development through the recruitment and use of a faculty advisor to address academic areas of growth.
- Pi Beta Phi organized a congratulatory dinner at The Melting Pot for chapter members that acquired at least a 3.75 semester GPA. The chapter leadership remains committed to rewarding strong academic performance.
- The committee recommends the chapter collaborate with The Center for Academic Success to provide formal training for Angel Advisors rather than mentorship by major choice. This is a repeated recommendation.
- Pi Beta Phi hosted the third annual Pie with Pi Phi inviting faculty and staff to the chapter house to build relationships with members outside of the classroom. The committee considers this an admirable way to bridge the gap between Greek life and University faculty and staff.
- The committee would like the chapter to think critically about mandatory study hours and if this obligation is effective for all learning styles or the varying needs of academic coursework (i.e. rehearsal, studio hours).

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:**

- **How does membership within Pi Beta Phi advance members’ intellectual growth and curiosity?**

In the area of **Academic & Intellectual Advancement**, the committee rated Pi Beta Phi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

#### **Facilities Management**

- Pi Beta Phi had no common damages for 2017-2018.
- Pi Beta Phi managed openings and closings with no issues.
- Pi Beta Phi passed life safety inspections and fire drills with zero violations.
- The chapter successfully met occupancy for both the fall and spring semesters.
- Pi Beta Phi members continued participation in the Eco-Reps program. The chapter Eco-Reps led Pi Beta Phi through a no power hour in which all lights and televisions were turned off in an effort to decrease consumption of energy. The committee considers this a best practice.
- Pi Beta Phi made a conscious effort to switch from paper plates and bowls to ceramic dishware in order to decrease the amount of waste created by the chapter.
- The chapter sustained a strong relationship with the chapter’s Assistant Director from the Office of Residential Services, Brooke Clayton.

- The committee would like to see Pi Beta Phi explore the possibility of composting within the facility as an avenue to advance their sustainability measures.

#### **Chapter Development Question for 2018-2019:**

- **How can Pi Beta Phi implement best practices in regards to sustainable living from other chapters?**

In the area of **Facilities Management**, the committee rated Pi Beta Phi to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

#### **Overall Rating**

**Overall, Pi Beta Phi has been rated an Accredited chapter by the 2017-2018 Accreditation committee.**

While Pi Beta Phi had a fairly successful year, the committee does not feel the chapter performed as high of a level as in years past. The committee recommends that Pi Beta Phi use the chapter development questions as a framework to guide the upcoming year. This should include significant improvement to community service efforts. The chapter has a national philanthropy that seamlessly matches the needs of the local community. The committee believes that Pi Beta Phi has a history of strong leadership which affords the chapter the ability to once again be Accredited with Excellence.

**The Accreditation committee assigns Pi Beta Phi an overall rating of Accredited, which meets expectations set forth by Lehigh University. The chapter is successful and is an active contributor to the Greek and Lehigh communities.**

#### **Chapter Development Questions**

- How does Pi Beta Phi continue to develop members after the new member education period?
- How does the chapter set goals to ensure they continue to add value to the Greek, Lehigh, and South Bethlehem communities?
- How can Pi Beta Phi develop chapter efforts towards service in the South Bethlehem community?
- How does membership within Pi Beta Phi advance members' intellectual growth and curiosity?
- How can Pi Beta Phi implement best practices in regards to sustainable living from other chapters?

#### **Best Practices**

- Pi Beta Phi requires members to attend a risk meeting the week leading up to all date parties and formals. During this meeting, emphasis is placed on the shared responsibility of members and their dates to ensure a safe event. If members or their guests do not follow policy, they will meet with the policy and standards board. The committee considers this a best practice.
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