

PSI UPSILON

Accreditation Report
2018-2019

Leadership & Member Development

- Psi Upsilon continues to strengthen its transition process for officers in order to ensure that new leadership is sufficiently prepared for their role within the organization. The committee commends the ways in which the chapter has improved this process. Components of the program include shadowing, review for binders which detail the duties and responsibilities of the position, and requirement meetings between out-going and incoming officers.
- Psi Upsilon sponsored multiple events which aim to promote strong relationships amongst the members. Events included Monday Night Football, Secret Santa, Tuesday Tourneys and Movie Nights. The committee notes that the chapter has a solid structure in place for non-alcoholic events and encourages them to build on that as their chapter evolves.
- Chapter members are involved in leadership roles across campus, including ROTC, Orientation Leaders, Student Senate, Interfraternity Council and Gryphon Society. The committee encourages the chapter to consider what they have learned from their participation across campus and how that learning benefits their chapter community.
- Psi Upsilon's Big Brother Program is in place to provide new members supports and guidance when needed by current members. It is through this relationship that the new members learn ritual and the values of the chapter.
- The chapter acknowledged its conduct issues regarding alcohol and subsequent discussions with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs regarding their recruitment and retention of members.

Chapter Development Question for 2019-2020:

- **How is the chapter using ritual to truly strengthen relationships amongst the members?**

In the area of **Leadership & Member Development**, the committee rated Psi Upsilon to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Organizational Operations

- Psi Upsilon acknowledged their disciplinary conduct record which resulted in the chapter's need to revisit the goals of the brotherhood. The chapter invited their chapter's leadership consultant, Cathy Lefevre, to facilitate a session that helped them establish steps to become a better fraternity.
- Psi Upsilon noted its fulfillment of the educational sanctions to include: developing a New Member Education plan this is in line with the goals of the Greek and Lehigh community, revising their bylaws to increase student safety and creating an updated New Member Education plan.
- The chapter changed the structure of the Standards Board and how members are elected to ensure the best representatives of the chapter are in this role.
- Psi Upsilon acknowledges the expense of fraternity membership is disadvantageous to those members from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The chapter has merit-based scholarships

funded by alumni to assist in filling the gap, as well as a payment plan option to increase access.

Chapter Development Question for 2019-2020:

- **In what ways can Psi Upsilon contribute to the membership development of the larger Greek community based on what the chapter has learned this past year?**

In the area of **Organizational Operations**, the committee rated Psi Upsilon to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Community Service & Engagement

- Psi Upsilon noted that their fundraising and volunteer efforts were directed in areas where members had the most passion and interest; the chapter recorded 210 hours for philanthropy and 342 hours for community service.
- Members of Psi Upsilon were involved with Break the Silence during the 2018 New Student Orientation. They presented on topics that included gender violence and sexual assault.
- Psi Upsilon sponsored a Nintendo Super Smash Brothers Tournament in the chapter house, which raised approximately \$100 for Action Against Hunger.
- Psi Upsilon members participated in Adopt-A-Family, providing gifts to a needy family. During the winter holiday season, the chapter also provided gifts for children through the Holiday Hope Chest initiative through the Community Service Office.
- Psi Upsilon partnered with Alpha Phi for the Hearts 2v2 Basketball Tournament. Thirteen teams participated, raising approximately \$1000 for the American Heart Association.
- Psi Upsilon participated in Spooktacular, which is a service program sponsored by the Community Service Office for South Bethlehem area children. The chapter provided pumpkins for the children to paint. The Community Service Office noted the expectation was to help children carve pumpkins versus painting them. The committee recommends that the chapter make every efforts to meet expectations in future endeavors.
- Psi Upsilon established an on-going relationship with the Historic Bethlehem Visitor Center. Chapter members have volunteered their time for general clean-up, as well as provided volunteers for administrative/clerical support.
- The chapter has done service in a number of areas. The committee recommends that that chapter deepen its relationship and do more for a smaller number of organizations.
- The committee recommends that the chapter consider the value added for their efforts and more clearly define their purpose, whether that be to raise more money or increase member participation. To that end, the committee recommends that the chapter develop a meaningful plan for service.

Chapter Development Question for 2019-2020:

- **What opportunities does the chapter have to reflect on its service?**

In the area of **Community Service & Engagement**, the committee rated Psi Upsilon to be an **Unaccredited Chapter**.

Academic & Intellectual Advancement

- Psi Upsilon was ranked 12th out of 13 Interfraternity Council chapters in the fall 2018 semester with a GPA of 2.94, a decrease of 0.22 from the spring 2018 semester. The 2.94 GPA placed the chapter below All Greek and All Fraternity average.
- Psi Upsilon was ranked sixth out of 13 Interfraternity Council chapters in the spring 2019 semester with a GPA of 3.15, an increase of 0.21 from the fall 2018 semester. The 3.15 GPA placed the chapter below the All Fraternity and All Greek average.
- Psi Upsilon's fall 2018 new member class GPA was 3.00 ranking third out of 10 Interfraternity Council chapters. Psi Upsilon's spring 2019 new member class GPA was 3.04 ranking fifth out of 13 Interfraternity Council chapters.
- Psi Upsilon had 26.3% of the chapter on the Dean's List in the fall 2018 semester and 22.4% on the Dean's List in the spring 2019 semester.
- The chapter revised its Academic Plan in order to address the academic challenges experienced by some members. Some of the changes include the following: implementation of a new minimum GPA requirement for membership and added requirements for students who are on chapter academic probation, creation of the Academic Big Brother Program and the creation of the Mental Health Chair position.
- The committee commends the chapter for increasing its minimum GPA requirement despite the potential impacts on membership, demonstrating a commitment to their members' success.
- The committee appreciated the attention given to the academic performance of its members. The committee recommends that it revisit some of the requirements in collaboration with the Center for Academic Success to identify avenues for addressing the cause of academic struggles, as well as strategies to address them.
- The committee commends the development of the Academic Big Brother Program, which capitalizes on the value of the peer-to-peer relationship. The committee encourages the chapter to incorporate university structures/resources to which this program can complement, e.g. academics advisors, utilization of professor's office hours for additional support.
- The committee recognizes the need for mental health support through the creation of the Mental Health Chair position; however, it is very important to work with University Counseling and Psychological Services for guidance on making appropriate referrals to that office. The committee is concerned that this responsibility will be overwhelming for one individual, thus the need for added support and clarity for the role. The committee also recommends that the chapter reach out to The Panhellenic Council to discuss the implementation of their Wellness Chairs and learn from their successes and challenges.
- The committee appreciated the approach the chapter has used to incentivize improved academics. The committee took note of the Resource Bank and recommends that the chapter continues to evaluate the use of shared resources as it may put members at risk of violating university policies regarding academic integrity.

Chapter Development Question for 2019-2020:

- **What steps can Psi Upsilon take to ensure that the members who are on academic probation do not perceive the process for academic recovery as punitive?**

In the area of **Academic & Intellectual Advancement**, the committee rated Psi Upsilon to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Facilities Management

- Psi Upsilon's common damages for the year were \$425.00.
- Psi Upsilon managed openings and closings with no issues.
- Psi Upsilon passed life safety inspections and fire drills, but some issues were found within the chapter house at one life safety inspection. The chapter house was found with a large amount of trash in the common areas and couches on the outside porch.
- The chapter did not successfully meet the 90% occupancy standard for the fall 2018 semester, but was able to meet the standard in the spring 2019 semester at 91%.
- The chapter made significant improvements to the house, including new furniture and refurbishments of the chapter Poker Room.
- Psi Upsilon participated in the Office of Sustainability's Trashion Show for the sixth consecutive year wherein models wore outfits made of trash or recyclable products. The chapter received the Most Creative Award.

Chapter Development Question for 2019-2020:

- **What opportunities exist for Psi Upsilon to resolve occupancy issues?**

In the area of **Facilities Management**, the committee rated Psi Upsilon to be an **Accredited Chapter**.

Overall Rating

Overall, Psi Upsilon has been rated an Accredited chapter by the 2018-2019 Accreditation committee.

Psi Upsilon is making progress in multiple areas. The committee encourages the chapter to attend to the recommendations included in this report and address the chapter development questions as a means to strengthen its membership and the contributions it can make to the university, as well as the Bethlehem community.

The Accreditation committee assigns Psi Upsilon 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 is the chapter using ritual to truly strengthen relationships amongst the members?
- In what ways can Psi Upsilon contribute to the membership development of the larger Greek community based on what the chapter has learned the past year?
- What opportunities does the chapter have to reflect on its service?
- What steps can Psi Upsilon take to ensure that the members who are on academic probation do not perceive the process for academic recovery as punitive?
- What opportunities exist for Psi Upsilon to resolve occupancy issues?