

FACILITIES POLICIES REVIEW COMMITTEE
September 27, 2007

The Facilities Policies Review Committee (FPRC) held its second meeting on September 27, 2007 at 6pm in Room 276 of the J. Wayne Reitz Union. Present were Chairman Seth Mollitt, Andy Batson, Pam Bourg, John Brower, Caroline Etter, Shae Ferguson, Dennis Hamm, Ed Kellar, Lisa Kenna, Arthur Portnoy, Emma Winstead and staff members Chris Bullin and Don Gaddo.

The meeting was called to order and introductions were done.

Minutes of the September 27 meeting were approved.

The website has been updated and the minutes from the first have been posted.

Goals and values were discussed and will be used as the guidelines for writing policies. In 2005 consultants were hire to review and make recommendations concerning the Greek system at the University of Florida. A 33 page report was presented to the Vice President for Student Affairs. Chris will e-mail the report to Committee members.

The following issues were discussed:

1. Health & Safety are our primary concern. Fire inspections began in 2002, sprinkler systems have been installed and kitchens inspected by the health department. The UF made low interest loans available to houses for fire sprinklers.
2. Appearance is important on campus and Physical Plant Division takes care of buildings and grounds; they do not do that for the sororities and fraternities. Some houses are in serious need of maintenance – both buildings and grounds.
3. Co-curricular. Sororities and fraternities serve as a lab for living/learning. They help members handle conflict, diversity and lifestyles. At least one member of the Committee felt that S&F are held to a higher standard than the rest of the student populations and that they must always be “turned on”; they need some time when the University is not watching them.
4. There needs to be greater support structure for rebuilding. The OSFA has been much more supportive and positive in their approach than in the past. It is harder to hold on and off campus houses to the same standards.
5. Flexibility. Fraternities and sororities operate their houses very differently. Fraternities are used a lot more for social events and therefore have greater wear on their facilities. Their structures for handling their financial income are very different.
6. Sharing information among the houses is very important. Some felt that the Greek houses are held to a much higher standard and residence halls. All agreed that the activities of the Greek systems should be ones that would make the alumni proud.

With the above information in mind, **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats** were discussed.

Strengths

1. Safety/comfort in community/home
2. Support for the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Affairs (communication & guidelines)
3. Involvement of advisors
4. Number of facilities (38 at present)
5. Recognized importance on local and national level
6. 1,500 live here

Weaknesses

1. Condition of houses
2. Facility maintenance
3. Limited financial resources and reserves for emergencies
4. Lack of community effort
5. Houses not designed for today's students (lack of storage)
6. Access road behind fraternity row is security issue
7. Difficulty in continuity – officers are in for a year, constant training
8. High density
9. Don't bid goods/services just get someone to do the job
10. Security comfort to live on campus
11. Lack of infrastructure – solid operating practices

Opportunities

1. University help with fundraising
2. Storage
3. Maintain houses to high standard – problems/corrections
4. House Director – hire and train; they are small business managers
5. Communication vision for future
6. UF has name recognition – and we have some of the largest chapters at UF
7. High density – economy of scale – group buying power

Threats

1. Age of facilities
2. Lack of University support for growth
3. General hostility toward housing facilities
4. Deferred recruitment

Don Gaddo made the following observations: our housing directors, chapter advisors, house corporations and chapters as a whole are very strong. House Directors in sororities do communicate with each other and work to overcome or avoid problems. Our House Directors are really small business managers with a lot of responsibility. Communication among chapters, UF staff, house directors and house corporations is very important and every effort should be made to maintain and improve those skills. There is a tendency to judge others on their shortcomings. Strong leadership filters to and through our chapters and we need to focus on that. The Office of Sorority & Fraternity Affairs is a very good resource available to help the Greek system.

The Committee members will meet again Thursday, October 4. Seth asked members of the Committee to review the House Director Policies – both the current policy and the one proposed during the spring - and keep in mind our SWOT and values when reviewing the policies.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bourg, Secretary