March 22, 2011

Dear Fraternity and Sorority Leaders, Alumni Leaders, and Friends of the Greek Community at the University of Minnesota:

During the past several years, I have been pleased to see the Greek system continue to grow and be recognized for its positive contributions to the campus and the University of Minnesota. Over the last several months, the Office for Student Affairs and Office for Fraternity & Sorority Life have engaged the community’s constituents in developing a strategic plan to ensure the community’s continued growth and success, as well as its alignment with the academic mission of the University. (A copy of this plan is attached). The process used to develop this plan had multiple stages, including a steering committee comprised of students, staff, parents, and Greek alumni, and provided many opportunities for community input. For more information about the process and the steering committee please see the attachment “Fraternity and Sorority Strategic Plan Process.”

I am confident that this plan will chart a course of success and will continue to provide alignment of the community’s goals and programs with the mission of the University, thereby ensuring the community’s continued leadership and relevance. The articulation of the Greek community’s mission, vision, values, and learning outcomes will help to frame all of our efforts to build a stronger and more vibrant community. Additionally, I am glad that Mission and Values Congruence, Inclusion/Diversity and Multiculturalism, and Learning and Development have been included among the key strategic issues identified in the plan.

The action items for Spring 2011 have been discussed and distributed to the Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, Panhellenic Council, and chapter leaders through the Fraternity and Sorority Community Leadership Retreat on January 23, 2011. In addition, many of the action items that chapters are being asked to complete have been added to the Chapter Profile document, which chapters are required to submit at the end of every semester. In this way, we will have accurate information about each chapter’s progress in implementing the plan. In addition, every stakeholder group’s progress in implementing the plan will be tracked at: http://www1.umn.edu/fsi/strategieplan/.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Fraternity and Sorority Community Strategic Plan Steering Committee and everybody who participated throughout the process for dedicating their time and energy to such an important task. Our Greek community has become stronger in recent years with regard to recruitment, academics, community service, and alumni/alumnae/graduate member involvement. I want our community to continue to grow stronger and these recommendations provide necessary direction and leadership.

Sincerely,

Jerry Rinehart
Vice Provost for Student Affairs
Fraternity and Sorority Strategic Plan Process

The University of Minnesota implemented a four stage fraternity/sorority community planning process. An external facilitator, Dan Bureau, was hired to manage the process. Stage one was a comprehensive assessment of the fraternity/sorority community. During this process, over 100 people provided perspectives on the strengths and areas of improvement, including five focus groups for students, three for alumni/alumnae/graduate members, three for University of Minnesota faculty/staff, and one for parents of current fraternity/sorority members. Assessment was primarily focused on how fraternities and sororities can become relevant and meaningful contributors to the campus and local community.

Stage two focused on an appointed steering committee developing content for the plan. This occurred through a weekend long meeting and a series of virtual meetings. A list of committee members can be found below. Stage three was done through two conference calls involving committee members. Through this process, the external facilitator was able to refine brainstormed content. Stage four included 12 different opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback on plan content. The collective process lasted from May 2010 through November 2010. At that time, the compiled draft was reviewed by intern/national fraternity and sorority leaders, who provided additional feedback.

The steering committee consists of the following people:
- Desiree Abu-Odeh, collegiate member of Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc.
- Abbie Burgess, collegiate member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority
- Kamarriie Davis, Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence
- Tom Devine, alumnus member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity
- Chad Ellsworth, Office for Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Dana Farley, Boynton Health Service
- Katie Leinenkugel, President, Panhellenic Council
- Nikki Letawsky Shultz, College of Biological Sciences
- Lynn McGraw, alumnus member of Phi Mu Sorority; representative for Twin Cities Alumnae Panhellenic Association
- Sam Ndely, collegiate member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
- Joe Sandbulte, President, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity; representative for Interfraternity Council
- Marj Savage, Parent Program
- Lynn Swon, alumna member of Delta Gamma Sorority
- Jan Tyson Roberts, graduate member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc