

Greeks enjoy Rush success

Michelle Fortner
for the Index

A joint effort between sororities and fraternities on campus helped lead to an increase in recruitment numbers this semester.

The sororities of the Panhellenic Council saw their numbers at recruitment jump to 191 women, up from 149 last fall. For the Interfraternity Council, 189 men signed up for rush this fall, up from 169.

Sal Costa, director of Greek affairs, said he and others involved in Greek affairs attended a conference for the Mid-American Greek Council Association in Chicago last February. The workshops, breakout groups and meetings helped them brainstorm new ideas for increasing interest in Greek organizations.

Among the new ideas was a DVD featuring the Greek organizations of IFC and the Panhellenic Council. The DVD included pictures from sororities and fraternities portraying the different areas of Greek life from social events to philanthropy to intramural sports.

All incoming freshmen received the DVD.

Along with the DVD, freshmen received a letter written by the parents of students involved in Greek life. They wrote about the positive qualities their children possess because they became involved in Greek life. They also wrote about

the positive aspects of Greek organizations.

Costa said these parents were happy to portray the positive side of Greek involvement. He also said this letter was exactly what Greek recruitment needed.

"When a parent is talking very positive about an experience a child received, that's different than a student saying they had a great experience," Costa said. "I thought that was a right direction to take."

Greek organizations around the country sometimes receive a bad reputation, and Costa said this happens because they are easily identifiable. But he said there are many advantages to being a part of Greek life. He said Greek life brings a person a great source of

"We made a significant effort to spread information about Greek life."

Michael Pierson
Senior IFC President

networking, feeling like part of a family and also developing leadership skills.

Costa also said IFC and the Panhellenic Council working together was a good step for Greek life.

"It was a joint, unified effort on the part of the entire Greek life, sororities and fraternities," Costa said.

"It wasn't like they were competing with each other."

But Costa said not everyone is cut out for Greek life. He said it is up to the individual to make that decision.

"There are people who have friends who are in sororities or fraternities, but they themselves choose not to join," Costa said.



Freshmen Cindy Finney, Jordan Forkosh and Megan Gajewski run down the hill to social sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha on Sept. 12 at Red Barn Park during Yell-In, the official end to sorority recruitment.

photo submitted by Leah Anson

"You have to respect that too."

More than just mailings helped spread word about rush. Senior Michael Pierson, IFC president, said many events during Truman Week helped more students learn about Greek life. He said the overall effort to get information out expanded.

"We made a significant effort to spread information about Greek life," Pierson said.

He said the informational DVD

and the events during Truman Week helped greatly with the increase in rush sign-ups. He also said credit goes to the spreading of the new Greek slogan, "Whichever way you go, you can't go wrong."

Despite all of the work by IFC and the Panhellenic Council to reach incoming freshmen, the information did not reach them all. Freshman Ronnie Gentile said he received the DVD and other information this

summer, but he did not look at it. But Gentile did go through rush last week. He said he had a good opinion of the Greek community going into the semester.

"I didn't think I would rush," Gentile said. "I liked the people, though."

The information might not have gotten to everyone, but Costa said he thinks the effort was worth it.

"It was really a shot in the arm," Costa said.

Recruitment	Fraternities
	Signed up
	2004 - 168
	2005 - 189
	149 pledged
Sororities	
Rushed	
2004 - 138	
2005 - 164	
Sources: John Skevington Laura Nguyen	

CLASS | Administration plans increase in student-to-teacher classroom ratio

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faculty," Dixon said. "Given that money is not flowing, in fact money is being taken away, that's one of the places where we believe we can still have a very good institution and be at 16-to-1."

Dixon said that although the average ratio would be higher than most private colleges, the ratio would still be lower than most public universities.

Dixon said any changes would be implemented in the next three to four years, primarily through faculty attrition.

"Through retirement and natural ways in which people leave, we will make adjustments," Dixon said.

Gordon said the rise in enrollment has affected the ratio.

"One of the most significant elements is the number of students," Gordon said. "Right now the level of enrollment, with the level of faculty, causes us to be below 15-to-1."

Gordon said attrition could be avoided if enrollment increases by as much as 400 students.

"If enrollment trends down, the number of faculty positions that need to be removed will increase," Gordon said.

Doug Davenport, dean of social science, said that enrollment trends do not indicate such an increase.

"Unless we have an increase in student enrollment, there would have to be some reduction in faculty numbers," Davenport said.

Davenport said the elimination of programs might be a possibility.

"It's a morale killer to think of these things as a possibility, but of course it's only one option among several," Davenport said.

Jonathan Smith, associate profes-



Mike Snoderly/Index

Students in a literature class with 40 students discuss work in groups.

sor of geography, said that if one of the two geography professors were to leave, the discipline could be eliminated or possibly merged into another discipline.

"You'd almost have to keep one in the stable to keep geography around because of state statues," Smith said.

Smith said only two professors taught geography when Truman had a geography major.

Division deans and John Fraire, vice president of enrollment management, will meet with Gordon to look at enrollment data and come up with projections.

Gordon said the projection and subsequent proposals will be presented to each division and the Faculty Senate for their examination.

"We'll need to examine all those issues and come up with some goals that reflect the patterns that we've seen

develop in the [Liberal Studies Program]," Gordon said. "Some majors have grown more than others."

Gordon said several factors for individual ratios include classes in one discipline that are required in a different discipline and labs for science classes.

"We'll look at the patterns that have developed as we have implemented the LSP to see where students are taking classes and where the demand is," Gordon said. "Some divisions will have a goal of 16-to-1 and some will be below."

Dixon said she doesn't expect a significant change in class atmosphere.

"Faculty might see two or three more students in each of their classes, and yet some faculty might not," Dixon said. "It depends on what their loads are now, what their loads should be. I doubt that students will notice much change at all."

Gordon said once divisions have made recommendations, additional forums will take place where students and staff can provide input.

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Barbara Dixon
University president

CENTENNIAL | Residents face flooding in rooms

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This recent leak in Centennial was probably caused by the building's old age and is typical for a building of its age, Houlihan said.

"[The maintenance crew] said it was a hole in the gutter, and [the water] was coming down through the wall," Calahan said. "They gave us a mop and bag full of rags, and I was mopping every five minutes, but we survived."

Calahan said she skipped two of her classes that afternoon to keep the water leakage in her residence hall room under control.

She said she and her roommate, freshman Michelle Van Horn, had to move all of their belongings off the floor. They then had to pull up all the electrical cords they had taped along the floor because they were scared of being electrocuted.

"We used every one of our own towels," Van Horn said. "My roommate was given a number to call, but it was hard to reach the person. The only as-

sistance we had was [the hall staff] gave us a mop and bucket and gave us a ton of towels."

Because the room is tiled and Van Horn and Calahan each moved their possessions off of the floor, none of their belongings were damaged or ruined.

Calahan said that where the water came out of the room's wall, however, there was clear water damage.

Calahan said people from across and down the hall in Centennial came to help them clean up the water in their room.

"We had a lot of people supporting our cause, donating towels," Calahan said. "If we hadn't done anything, I think the room would have filled up with three inches."

After the rain stopped and the leak subsided, Calahan said she spent the rest of the night laundering towels she had used in order to have clean towels for her and her roommate and to give back to the people who had lent them to her.

ASSAULTS | Teenagers allegedly harass students

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"We were going two different ways, and so we couldn't find the group," Farnsworth said.

The accuser filed a report of second degree assault the following day. The report will be sent to the prosecutor for further determination.

If the offense is considered second degree assault, which is a felony, then the suspect will have to go to court.

In a similar instance on the same night, freshman Julia Reimann said she and two friends also were accosted by a group of teenagers at the corner of Pierce and Davis streets.

"[My friends and I] were waiting for our ride when a group of 15 to 16-year-old[s] walked up acting like a bunch of

gangsters," Reimann said.

She said the boys in the group wore no shirts, and the girls wore oversized hooded sweatshirts.

Reimann said that when her friend attempted to make conversation with the group, problems arose.

She said some of the teenagers began shouting obscenities and accused one of her friends of being a lesbian because of her clothing style and dreadlocks.

Reimann said the group continued to shout obscenities and followed them to their car when their ride arrived about five minutes later.

"They said, 'Just bust a cap on that b----, and let's be out of here,'" Reimann said.

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