**PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WITHIN THE CHAPTER**

The list that follows is to help you with ideas for how to promote academics in every area of sorority life such as during chapter meetings, when you are a new member, older members, and during recruitment. Use this list as a resource when looking for ideas to improve academics within your chapter!

**During Chapter Meetings**

1. Remind your chapter of all university deadlines for the week (i.e., drop/add dates, graduation deadlines, etc.). Also post these dates on the chapter master calendar and the scholarship bulletin board.
2. Promote campus and community social, cultural, academic, and career events (especially career workshops!). Encourage all members to participate. Not only will the chapter look good, but it will promote intellectual development, which is what we're all here for in the first place.
3. Congratulate those members who did exceptionally well on a test, paper, or project, as well as those who got job offers, graduate school acceptance, etc.

**During Recruitment**

4. Display academic awards earned by your chapter and its members.

5. Make graphs of your chapter's academic progress and other related statistics and display them prominently on the scholarship bulletin board.

6. Make sure that potential members understand your chapter commitment to academic excellence. Look for people who will succeed or have the desire to succeed if high school grades are not ideal.

**In the Chapter Library**

7. Encourage members to donate old textbooks and reference materials to the chapter library .

8. Create a check-out system for the library.

9. Maintain a professor/class evaluation file for members to evaluate each class and professor they have taken each semester.

10. Get rid of the test file! Test files only promote academic dishonesty and are too easily used as a crutch to substitute for really studying. Do not collect old papers, as they are just invitations to plagiarize. Instead, keep track of members who have taken popular courses and post their names on the scholarship board for other members to utilize their expertise. There are much better ways to promote academics than to invest any time or space in a test file. If your chapter is set on having one, make sure that it is used only as a reference, not as the only means of studying.

11. Suggested items to include in your chapter library: encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauruses, foreign language dictionaries, atlases, university catalogs. fraternity/sorority history , chapter handbooks, magazines, novels/biographies/popular fiction, career information pamphlets and brochures, professional school preparation books (GRE/LSA T/MCA T/GMA T), computer manuals, professor/class evaluations, newspapers. etc.

**Scholarship Bulletin Board**

12. Devote a bulletin board to career information, including resume information, internship opportunities, summer job information, graduate school admission testing deadlines, etc.

13.Post tutoring information, including chapter tutoring program and other academic support services offered by the university .

14. Post flyers with library hours, computer lab hours, writing center, and career center, math tutoring lab hours.

15. Maintain an academic calendar for the entire year listing all important dates for the university and the chapter to aid members in better managing their time.

16. Post flyers and announcements about university and community events and encourage chapter participation.

17. Post information about study abroad programs.

18. Post information on the university honors program and other academic honor societies such as the Order of Omega and Rho Lambda.

**Study Areas**

19. Post inspirational sayings around the room (and the entire house) to encourage achievement.

20. If your chapter does not have computers, encourage the chapter and the alumni/ae to budget for them NOW! If you have computers, make sure they are all in working order and updated.

21. Offer a workshop for all new and old members alike on how to use your chapter computers efficiently to improve their personal and academic productivity.

**For New Members**

22. Encourage them to use tutors-this is not a sign of failure, but a sign of a good student who realizes his/her weaknesses.

23. Encourage participation in seminars offered by various university departments such as Counseling Services, Career Services, Academic Advising Center, etc. If your chapter has study hours, count attendance at a seminar towards study hours completed. Make sure participants report back to the chapter what they have learned.

24. Send letters to parents discussing the chapter's academic programs and encourage them to take an active role in their son or daughter's academic success.

25. Encourage big sisters/brothers to take an active role in promoting academic success with their little sis/brother. Prepare a list of activities that they can do together that will help both out academically (i.e.,finding a new place to study, attend an academic seminar together, register for classes, etc.).

26. Give a special award to the new/associate member with the best class attendance.

27. Be available to meet with new/associate members throughout the semester if they have questions, need advice, or just want to chat. Meet at the beginning of the semester to get to know each other and to introduce university and chapter services to the new/associate members, as well as to make goals for the semester and for all four years. Meet again at midterms and finals to discuss how things are going and to encourage utilization of university and chapter services.

28. Encourage new/associate members to get in the habit of keeping a calendar with all important dates. Provide a list of all chapter and university events at the beginning of each semester to help new/associate members budget their time more effectively.

29. Try to avoid mandatory study hours. It merely reinforces negative attitudes about studying. Offer study hours, but make them highly encouraged. Use university seminars as alternatives to study hours. Allow new/associate members to work in computer labs if they need to during study hours.

29. Have older members write down some of their best study tips or habits. Pass them on to new members to utilize as they are developing their own study skills.

**For Older Members**

31. You will need to try a variety of things to keep them involved in chapter academics. By the time they are juniors or seniors, they will hopefully be well on their way to graduation, but for those who aren't, you will need to go out of your way to reach them.

32. Meet with older members who are in academic jeopardy. Emphasize how far they've come. Ask probingquestions to figure out what is going on for them, and remind them of university services available tothem.

33. Hold resume workshops. Recruit alumni/ae to help. Get a speaker from career services.

34. Have a Career Night with local alumni/ae and other community members.

35. Coordinate a GRE workshop for members interested in pursuing advanced degrees.