

THE PHI MU DELTA FRATERNITY

COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Scholarship Chairman

The scholarship chairman, whether elected or appointed, is one of the most important positions in a chapter. The scholarship chairman should:

- Be an above-average student. He need not be the brother with the highest grades, but he should be a good example for the others.
- Be able to command the respect of all brothers and be able to relate to the other men.
- Be an upperclassman with some organizational and leadership experience.
- Believe in the importance and purpose of a chapter scholarship program.
- Display qualities of perseverance and determination.

The Scholarship Committee

The scholarship committee is composed of a group of responsible chapter members and, whenever possible, should be assisted by the faculty advisor. The duties of the scholarship committee are:

- Evaluate the chapter scholarship program and modify or improve as necessary.
- Assist the VP of New Member Education in developing a new member scholarship program.
- Arrange for suitable presentation of academic awards.
- Interview and analyze brothers who are having scholastic problems and offer suggestions for improvement.
- Become acquainted with the services of the university or college to which men in need of assistance may be referred.
- Assist the recruitment committee in examining the scholastic potential of prospects.
- Maintain a healthy chapter attitude toward scholastic attainment.
- Assist the chapter officers in establishing and maintaining rules and regulations which provide proper study conditions in the chapter house.
- Serve as a liaison with members of the faculty, administration and deans.

Ensuring a Climate for Learning

One of the most important ingredients for a program which leads to a tradition of high scholarship is that of a chapter atmosphere that is conducive to learning. The type of chapter environment where good study habits can develop and be effective involves a consideration of both chapter policy and the physical facilities available:

- Plan the activities of the chapter so that they do not infringe upon study time. This necessitates planning in advance so that undue demands are not placed upon Brothers in order to meet a deadline, such as Homecoming projects, spring weekends, etc.
- Consider compensating a graduate student who could serve as a counselor in residence. This man may or may not be an alumni member of the fraternity. He could render guidance in maintaining an academic atmosphere and providing individual assistance through regularly scheduled office hours..
- Make the goal of sound scholarship the first emphasis of all chapter publications, including membership recruitment information.
- Remember that extracurricular activities have meaning for the individual and the chapter only if they are chosen freely by the individual. Forcing individuals into campus activities is inconsistent with the basic objectives of the fraternity.
- The chapter scholarship plan should include quiet hours and a means of enforcement. Remember that the chapter should formally adopt this scholarship plan.
- Minimize the possibility of distracting noises and interruptions of study from television, radio, stereo, card games and bull sessions through a program of rigid enforcement of quiet hours by the members of the scholarship committee. Make changes in the program of quiet hours if they are necessary.
- Check to be sure that there is adequate lighting in each study room.
- Designate, if possible, a room or area other than the library where group studying and review may occur. Keep the library separate so that Brothers living out of the house may have a quiet place to study. Alumni and parents clubs might well provide and equip the physical plant with an eye toward making it a better place in which to study.
- In promoting a chapter library, bear in mind that the chapter library is not to be a replacement for the university or college library, but rather something useful for reference purposes of a brief nature. Such standard books might be an unabridged dictionary, some of the textbooks which have been abandoned by men in the chapter for use in courses, and some well-selected magazine subscriptions. The scholarship committee might well encourage each graduate to give to the chapter the book that he enjoyed most during his college career.

Programs of Scholastic Assistance and Improvement

The values of the Fraternity teach that the primary duty to self, family, college, country, and Fraternity, is to do the best job of which we are capable. Part of the value of the Fraternity experience rests in learning to live with and be of service to our fellow man. The scholarship chairman and the scholarship committee can provide an invaluable service to the Brother who requests or is in need of academic assistance through the establishment of a program to aid those who are scholastically deficient in any way.

The following is a brief discussion of a few topics which may be considered in such a program of assistance:

- Encourage the members to seek assistance from their professors. As the number of college-going students continues to grow, it becomes increasingly important for students to attempt to maintain a close relationship with members of the faculty. The uninterested or uncooperative faculty member is the exception rather than the rule.
- Be familiar with and utilize the services of the staff of the university's testing and reading centers. Encourage a Brother who is floundering due to vocational indecision or personal problems to seek assistance immediately.
- Provide a system of tutorial assistance whereby those persons who are more proficient in certain fields may assist other Brothers having difficulty. Outside resources in the form of faculty members or graduate students may also provide help. Conduct reviews before examinations, particularly in the usual survey courses. Post the names of Brothers who will serve as tutors so that those who are deficient may sign up for assistance.
- Establish a systematic method of securing weekly reports of new members and share this information with their big brothers.
- **Avoid forced study tables; these represent a negative approach to the problem of self-discipline. Too often, forced study tables are noisy, poorly ventilated, and become substitutes for concentrated individual study, and are seen as an opportunity for a good time. Rather, concentrate on a scholarship program which assists the individual in budgeting his time, in learning how to study, and in utilizing his time most effectively in an atmosphere conducive to learning.**
- Curtail the extracurricular participation of brothers who are experiencing scholastic difficulty. When this action is taken, see to it that efforts are made to assist the individual to correct his deficiency.
- The scholarship committee and chapter might seek money to assist students whose only deterrent from completing their academic work is financial need. This kind of scholarship program should not be hard to come by if local philanthropists, alumni, and parents are sought for their help.

Chapter Recognition

Many Phi Mu Delta chapters achieve outstanding levels of scholastic activity as revealed in the rankings issued by host institutions. Chapters receiving the highest annual GPA (determined by an average of grade points for both pledges and initiated brothers) and a GPA above the all-men's average will be eligible for the Robert G. LeBlanc Academic Achievement Award. A certificate will be given for each semester the chapter meets or exceeds the all-men's standard.

INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION

Many undergraduate brothers and new members in Phi Mu Delta develop a record of outstanding scholarship. A new component of the chapter scholarship program should be recognition of these men. Brothers who achieve a perfect record in a semester may be recognized as follows:

- An Honor Certificate engrossed appropriately, presented by the chapter executive board.
- A special scholarship guard for attachment to the fraternity badge presented by the chapter executive board or alumni association.
- National recognition through listing in the Chapter Honor Roll which will appear in future issues of *The Triangle*.
- A letter of congratulations will be sent to parents of the honoree by the Chapter President on behalf of the fraternity.

CHAPTER AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOLASTIC ASSISTANCE

All chapters and brothers can benefit from carefully crafted assistance to improve their scholarship standing. An enhanced scholarship program for Phi Mu Delta should provide assistance and guidance with special emphasis on utilizing local education support programs such as those maintained by colleges and universities

CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP SELF-ASSESSMENT LIST

1. Does your chapter have a scholarship chairman and a committee which is functioning?
2. Does the VP of Membership Development know the exam schedule of the new member class, and is this used to prevent conflicts between exams and new member activities?
3. Do big brothers keep informed about the grades of their little brother(s)?
4. Is a minimum GPA required for initiation of a pledge?
5. Did at least 75% of the new member class achieve the required GPA and qualify to initiate?
6. Do the new members and brothers know of and use university resources such as reading and study clinics and counseling centers?
7. Are brothers required to follow in-house quiet hours?
8. Is chapter recognition given to brothers who do well academically?
9. Are fewer than 15% of the brothers on academic probation?
10. Is the chapter GPA above the all-campus, all men and all-fraternity GPA?
11. Do all of the chapter officers maintain average or above average academic standards?
12. Do brothers who have high GPAs remain active participants in the chapter, even as juniors and seniors?

CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Why Should Scholarship be Important?

A chapter can be no stronger than its weakest brother. If a brother (or new member) is not performing well academically, then he will not have time to allot to the chapter for its advancement. Hence, it is to the interest of the chapter to advance the scholastic performance of each and every member. Since advancement in school aids the career interests of every brother, it is also in the interest of the National Fraternity to aid all its members in realizing their full potential.

A chapter that performs well scholastically will be regarded highly by the campus administration and faculty, parents, potential new members and alumni. This will help if any chapter problems come to University attention - a favorable attitude will be present. In rush, parents and potential new members can be "sold" on the chapter if they are presented with evidence of the performance of its members.

How Can Scholarship be Advanced?

Success is habit-forming. Good scholarship must begin with the new member class. If proper habits are formed early, they will be carried forward until the prospective brother graduates, and even on to later in life. With both new members and brothers, inculcating good habits requires that time, incentive and tools all be available. Additionally, a chapter must have the organization to permit scholarship to have a high profile in its activities.

New Member Scholarship Programs

Scholarship is critical to the existence of a good new member program. Most freshmen are not used to competition at the level which they may find on your campus. The percentage of persons who drop out of school during their freshman year is high - by improving new member scholarship, more new members will stay in school to become initiated and can then participate fully in the chapter as successful brothers.

Improving Scholarship of Brothers

As in the case of new members, improvement of a brother's scholarship requires the provision of time, incentive and tools. Having been inculcated to the idea of quiet hours as new members, brothers find the continuation of this practice relatively easy. If new member quiet hours are maintained within the chapter house, brothers should be required to obey them - both to set an example, and for their own improvement. Major chapter events should not be scheduled to conflict with major examinations; although, this will be hard to avoid in larger chapters. The surest way to lose a good brother is to cause him to continually need to choose between chapter and scholastic events.

Incentives for a brother's scholarship include some discussed for new members. Grade posting and chapter recognition of superior performance are important. Campuses which calculate fraternity GPA's can encourage their IFC's to award a prize for best scholarship and most improved house GPA.

It is particularly important for upper class brothers to have role models to gear their studies accordingly. Recent alumni in professional fields can be invited to give a talk about their jobs to the chapter. On more isolated campuses, don't overlook possible non-alumni speakers either, such as the University architect,

attorney, physician or treasurer might have interesting stories to convey, and they will also be useful contacts to chapters in future relations with the campus administration.

Resources available to assist brother scholarship can be numerous. The examination file should be updated and continue to include upper-division course work. In addition, a chapter and instructor evaluation file can be started to help brothers select among various elective courses, although it should not be used merely to choose "gut" courses.

In junior and senior classes in particular, smaller classes can permit better interaction between students and their professors. Brothers should take the opportunity to associate with these instructors outside the classroom - invite them to coffee or lunch at the chapter house, for example.

Professional societies and honor societies may have files and materials useful to brother scholarship. Brothers should be encouraged to join and participate in those organizations in which they may be eligible (such as Tau Beta Pi in engineering, Alpha Chi Sigma in chemistry, etc.). On larger campuses, the Dean of Students or Dean of Fraternity Affairs may be consulted for his advise on improving brother scholarship.

To encourage brothers to study during in-house quiet hours, chapter libraries consisting of common reference books can be established. In addition, where appropriate, drafting tables may also be purchased. In some cases, the Phi Mu Delta Educational Foundation can aid the chapter in setting up these facilities.