WILLIAM & MARY
CHARTERED 1693

August 2008

Front Matter & Table of Contents

Oracle

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wm.edu/oracle
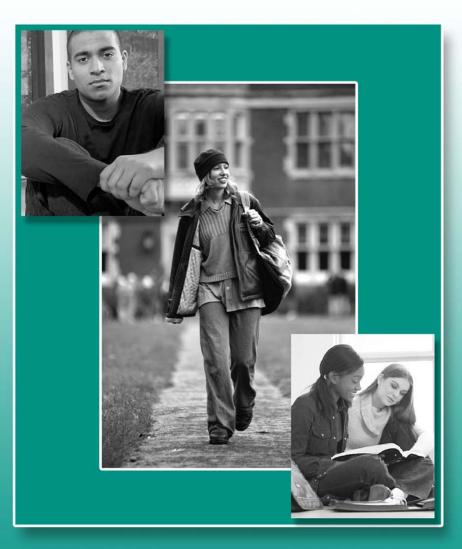
Part of the Higher Education Commons

ORACLE
The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors

afa

VOLUME 3 ✳ **ISSUE 2** ✳ **AUGUST 2008**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Malinda M. Matney, Ph.D. and Simone Himbeault Taylor, Ph.D.
The University of Michigan's disciplinary process requires bringing charges against individual students. An unexpected situation of nine simultaneous hazing cases during the 2004 fall term magnified the challenge of identifying responsible individuals in such cases. While the institution could have charged the leaders of the fraternities or sororities involved, instead it created and implemented the Community Education and Development Model to change the ingrained behavior and culture of the organizations. The focus was on enlivening the community-building potential of fraternities and sororities. What follows is a discussion of the intervention and subsequent assessment, which illustrates potential challenges and opportunities with this approach.

John P. Dugan, Ph.D.
Membership in social fraternities and sororities provides a powerful platform for developing college students' capacity for leadership. The existing knowledge regarding the extent to which it fulfills this goal, however, is relatively sparse. Much of the research on college student leadership relies on definitions that are inconsistent with contemporary conceptualizations. This study addresses this gap by looking at the leadership development of fraternity and sorority members using data from a national study grounded in the social change model. Results indicated fraternity and sorority members scored highest on the leadership value of commitment and lowest on the capacity to navigate change. Findings also revealed statistically significant differences across seven of eight leadership measures based on membership in sororities versus fraternities.

J. Patrick Biddix, Ph.D. and Thomas W. Hardy, Ed.D.
Researchers have suggested that fraternity membership is the most reliable predictor of gambling and gambling problems on campus. The purpose of this study was to determine if problematic gambling could be linked to specific aspects of fraternity membership. Though the null hypothesis (no enabling environment) failed to be rejected, descriptive analysis confirms that moderate rates of problem gambling are exhibited by subsets of fraternity members (officers, younger members, those who live with other members).

Further, predictive analysis revealed that gambling online and betting on skill games, such as golf or pool, increased the likelihood of problem gambling among fraternity members. Recommendations included a discussion of initiatives at another campus, as well as action steps for developing education and awareness programs.

Lauren Chapman, Joan B. Hirt, Ph.D., & Nicklaus R. Spruill

Mental health issues among college students are of increasing concern to administrators (Kitzrow, 2003). Self-esteem is a concept central to mental health (Kittleson, 1989) and can be linked to the social situations found in college settings, especially those that deal with rejection (Caunt, 2003; Eisenberger & Lieberman, 2004; Steffenhagen & Burns, 1987). Sorority recruitment is a process that can include rejection (National Panhellenic Conference, n.d.) and, thus, may negatively affect self-esteem. The purpose of this study was to determine how the sorority recruitment experience affects the self-esteem of participants. First, we explored whether self-esteem differed between two groups of potential members (PMs): those who completed recruitment (persistent PMs) and those who withdrew from the recruitment process (withdrawn PMs). Second, we examined how self-esteem differed at the start and the end of recruitment within these groups of PMs. Results revealed significant differences between groups and suggested a relationship between recruitment and self-esteem.

Colleen Elizabeth Coffey and Charles G. Eberly, Ph. D.

A formative evaluation of a national sorority's recruitment program was conducted to determine the effectiveness of selected program elements over the course of the first year's implementation. Primary objectives were to discover perceived needs among undergraduate members and chapters that were not met and to create program improvements based upon the respondent recommendations. A mixed method design employing a survey, the use of focus groups, and a review of available organizational recruitment data was utilized. Results indicated some participants understood and benefited from the recruitment program, while others felt pressure to recruit, and still others appeared unaware of the program's existence. Many chapters asked for a recruitment program tailored to their campuses' specific characteristics. Organizational data indicated a 9.1 percent increase in new member intake over the previous year, and a 10.2 percent increase in membership initiation. Recommendations include suggestions for program development, an examination of the national organization's communication modes with undergraduate chapters, and action- based recruitment plans tailored to individual campuses.

Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors
Vol. 3, Iss. 2, August 2008

2008 EDITORIAL TEAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors advances the study of college fraternities and sororities through a peer reviewed academic journal promoting scholarly discourse among partners invested in the college fraternal movement. The vision of *Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors* is to serve as the premier forum for academic discourse and scholarly inquiry regarding the college fraternity and sorority movement.

Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors is published biannually. Members of the Association receive the current issue *Oracle* as a benefit of membership; past issues of *Oracle* are available to the public on the AFA website.

Copyright:
Copyright © 2008 Association of Fraternity Advisors, Inc. (AFA). All material contained in this publication is the property of AFA. The opinions expressed in *Oracle* do not necessarily reflect those of AFA. Requests for permission to reprint should be sent to the AFA Central Office at info@fraternityadvisors.org or 317/876-1632.

Subscriptions:
Subscriptions may be purchased by contacting the Central Office. Single issues are available for $20; a one-year subscription is $35; a two-year subscription is $50.

Submissions:
Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors accepts submissions focused on articulating research involving fraternity and sorority members at the collegiate, alumni, inter/national organization, and volunteer advisory levels. Manuscripts should be written for the student affairs generalist who has broad responsibility for educational leadership, policy, staff development, and management. Articles on specialized topics should provide the generalist with an understanding of the importance of the program to student affairs overall and fraternity/sorority advising specifically.

Research articles for *Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors* should stress the underlying issues or problems that stimulated the research; treat the methodology concisely; and, most importantly, offer a full discussion of results, implications, and conclusions. In the belief that AFA readers have much to learn from one another, we also encourage the submission of thoughtful, documented essays or historical perspectives.

Visit http://www.fraternityadvisors.org/Oracle.aspx for more detailed submission guidelines.