

## **FINAL Report of the Committee on Greek Recruitment**

**May 1, 2013**

The following represents the report of the Committee on Greek Recruitment (members listed below), established in February 2013. In convening the committee, Dean of Students Nancy Thompson identified the concern that students enrolling in January must decide whether to join a Greek organization and begin pledging within weeks of their arrival at Hamilton. For fall matriculants, there was also the question of whether one full semester is sufficient time to acclimate to Hamilton before making a decision to pledge. Therefore, Dean Thompson in her charge asked the committee “to examine the pledging policies and timetable and to make recommendations that will benefit all students who choose to join Greek organizations.” What has guided our conversations is a commitment to determining what is best for Hamilton students.

We began our process by familiarizing ourselves with the policies and practices around Greek life at Hamilton, reviewing comparative data on membership and policies from peer colleges, and reading the 2011 Greek Life Task Force Report. We met with Director of Athletics Jon Hind '80 to determine the impact of pledging on student-athletes, and interviewed Associate Dean of Students for Leadership and Engagement Lisa Magnarelli '96, who serves as advisor to Greek organizations. To gather opinions on Greek life and specifically pledging practices, the committee sent a survey to all Hamilton students using an online survey tool, and collected over 700 responses.

Following extensive and at times spirited discussions, the committee concluded that Hamilton's Greek organizations would benefit from a revised pledging process. Our specific recommendations are as follows:

- Rush activities for first-year students (and other interested students) should commence no sooner than the first day of the spring semester and conclude by the last day of spring semester classes.
- Bids should be extended to first-years (and other interested students) no sooner than the last day of spring break and conclude by the last day of spring semester classes. Any requests for exceptions (such as transfers who wish to join an organization in the fall) must be approved by the dean of students.
- Pledging activities should begin no sooner than the third Thursday of the start of sophomore (or junior/senior) year. Pledging can last no more than five weeks and must be completed by the start of fall break. Pledging activities may not occur for more than 3 hours per day and must end by 1:00 a.m. Monday through Friday and 3:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- Annual reports for each organization should be submitted by September 1 and include a detailed schedule of pledging activities. Reports also should include a list of pledges.

- A mandatory meeting with a member of the Dean of Students Office should be organized (in small groups if necessary) to educate pledges about the process, their rights, and what constitutes hazing.
- A January student activities fair should be planned to familiarize “Jans” with the myriad organizations and opportunities on campus.

In keeping with the revised timetable, we recommend that there be no pledging in the spring of 2014, and have members of the Class of 2017 pledge Greek societies in the fall of their sophomore year.

We believe that these proposed changes will provide all new students time to settle in to the Hamilton community, focus on academic and athletic achievement, develop friendships, and explore extracurricular opportunities before making the significant commitment to membership in a Greek organization. A shorter pledge period still provides ample time for new members to familiarize themselves with the organization and its members, while reducing the inherent disruption to academic and athletic endeavors. With these recommendations, our aim is to promote a healthier environment around Greek life and student life in general.

Respectfully submitted by the members of the Committee on Greek Recruitment:

Meredith Harper Bonham (Chair), senior associate dean of students

Matthew Combs '13, *Sigma Phi*

TJ Davis, head men's and women's swim coach and associate professor of physical education

Andrew Dykstra, assistant professor of mathematics

Samuel Fuentes '13, *Alpha Delta Phi*

John “Gipper” Gailor '15

Tara Huggins '14

Kristin Schwam '13, *Gamma Xi*

David Solomon '84 P'16, Hamilton College Trustee, *Alpha Delta Phi*

Morolake Thompson '14, *Alpha Chi Lambda*

Nancy Thompson, dean of students, *ex officio*

Greek Life at Comparable Colleges					
College	Greeks	Number fraternities/sororities	When do students join?	Pledge Period	additional notes
Colgate University	Yes	6 fraternities/3 sororities	Fall semester sophomore year	4 weeks	2.0 gpa required for new members
Colorado College	Yes	3 fraternities/3 sororities	Fall semester of first year	varies by chapter	varies by chapter
Davidson College	Yes	8 fraternities/6 sororities	Spring semester of first year	6-8 weeks	2.0 gpa required
Hamilton College	Yes	11 fraternities/7 sororities	Spring semester first year	7 weeks	No gpa minimum
Hobart William Smith	Yes	6 fraternities/0 sororities	Fall semester sophomore year	6-8 weeks	Good academic/social standing, 2.5 gpa
St. Lawrence University	Yes	2 fraternities/4 sororities	Fall semester sophomore year	4 weeks	2.5 gpa
Trinity College	Yes	5 fraternities/3 sororities/2 coed	Fall semester sophomore year	No pledging	All co-ed. No pledging. Membership granted w/bid.
Union College	Yes	9 fraternities/3 sororities	Fall semester sophomore year	7 weeks	2.25 gpa
Washington & Lee Univeristy	Yes	15 fraternities/8 sororities	Spring semester of first year	8 weeks	2.3 gpa
Wesleyan University	Yes	4 fraternities/1 sorority/1 coed	no restriction		
Amherst College	No				
Bates College	No				
Bowdoin College	No				
Carleton College	No				
Colby College	No				
Connecticut College	No				
Grinnell College	No				
Haverford College	No				
Lafayette College	No				
Middlebury College	No				
Mount Holyoke College	No				
Oberlin College	No				
Pomona College	No				
Skidmore College	No				
Smith College	No				
Swarthmore College	No				
Vassar College	No				
Wellesley College	No				
Williams College	No				

## GREEK LIFE AT HAMILTON COLLEGE 2012-13

9 National Fraternities	Founded at Hamilton	Founded Nationally	Number of Members
Alpha Delta Phi	1832	1832*	40
Chi Psi	1845	1841	42
Delta Chi	2009	1890	38
Delta Kappa Epsilon	1856	1844	13
Delta Phi	1950	1827	21
Delta Upsilon	1847	1834**	30
Lambda Upsilon Lambda***	2005	1982***	1
Psi Upsilon	1843	1833	36
Sigma Phi	1831	1827	22
Tau Kappa Epsilon	1930	1899	16
Theta Delta Chi	1868	1847	18
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>277</b>
*Alpha Delta Phi's Hamilton chapter is its founding, "Mother" chapter **Delta Upsilon was the first "non-secret" fraternity *** Lambda Upsilon Lambda is also known as La Unidad Latina			
6 Local Sororities	Founded at Hamilton	Founded Nationally	Number of Members
Alpha Chi Lambda*	2002	-	9
Alpha Theta Chi	1994	-	54
Gamma Xi	1993	-	36
Kappa Delta Omega	1982	-	22
Kappa Sigma Alpha	2002	-	14
Phi Beta Chi	1986	-	46
<b>1 National Sorority</b>			
Sigma Lambda Upsilon***	2008	1987	6
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>187</b>
*was founded as a multicultural sorority; all current members are women of color ***Latina Sorority			

Percentage of **all students** who are Greek: **21%** (10-11: 24%)

Percentage of **all eligible students** who are Greek (*non-freshmen*): **29%** (10-11: 33%)

Percentage of **all women / eligible women** who are Greek: **17% / 23%** (10-11: 17% / 23%)

Percentage of **all men / eligible men** who are Greek: **26% / 35%** (10-11: 33% / 43%)

Percentages of **all student athletes** who are Greek: **33%** (10-11: 31%)

Percentage of **male athletes** who are Greek: **44%** (10-11: 40%)

Percentage of **female athletes** who are Greek: **18%** (10-11: 18%)

Percentage of **all Greeks** who are athletes: **30%** (10-11: 35%)

Percentage of **Greek men** who are athletes: **38%** (10-11: 43%)

Percentage of **Greek women** who are athletes: **18%** (10-11: 22%)