

Report of the ALPHA Active Chapter

I. Membership – Pledging Statistics

	1st Semester	2nd Semester
Number Rushed	24	15
Number Pledged	3	5
Number Initiated	2	5
Number of Active members	3	5
Number of Faculty Members	2	2

II. a. Rush and Pledging

- a. I am pleased to say that RUSH this year was a success, which has been a great morale booster for the chapter. We were able to get a lot of people to the house, but our main issue was continuing their interest to get them to become a pledge. However, we were able to get our names out more effectively through advertisement via flyers, a letter sent home over the previous summer, and the use of the National Book Scholarship. Our rush events included a pizza and foosball night, which was for the most part good, a night of Jackie Chan Movies and Chinese food, a joint BBQ with AOE, which was a very successful event, a casino night, which was not very popular, but resulted in one rushee becoming a pledge, and other simple and fun events at the house like eating sandwiches and playing games. During events that were not attracting rushees, many of the actives would go out and physically, but not forcefully, bring freshman back to the house by going to the dorms and talking to people.
- b. The pledges are required to read and memorize the majority of the pledge manual including: the Object, the Code of Ethics, the Greek alphabet, the description of the crest, numerous verses of Godiva, article four section three of the Constitution, the words on the plaque founding the Fraternity, USC's fight song, the five words describing a Trojan, and other selected parts of the pledge manual. Each week the pledges are assigned a new lesson, and by the end of the week each pledge is tested by either oral or written examination. The pledge semester extends from approximately the third week of the semester to the last week of the semester including the initiation week. During initiation week, the pledges are required to live at the house, study their lessons, and complete daily required tasks. We have two "work sessions" during the semester that include working on the house doing small projects of improvement and maintenance. We currently have no revision suggestions.
- c. The biggest problem with the training of pledges is that the pledge program is not structured for the small number of pledges that we have been recently having. The training program does not have any serious problems, and most pledges do not complain about the workload. The semester is sometimes grueling but manageable. The best part of the pledge semester is what the pledges learn after becoming actives. Many times newer actives will approach me and let me know how much their pledge semester, in a sense, parallels the role of an active. Retaining pledges is not really an issue, getting the rushees to become pledges is a more substantial problem.

- d. We started using the National Book Scholarship last year. It was very effective in advertising and many freshmen applied. We are planning to use this valuable resource again this upcoming year.

III. Membership

- a. Our membership problems are simply that we have not had enough active members willing to assist in a positive manner the past few semesters. However, we dissolved our membership down to a small group of hard working, positive actives, and this past year doubled our membership. We are looking forward to doing this again this coming year.
- b. The active chapter has a very strong attitude about this next rush. The actives, including those newly initiated, are rather excited to bring more members into the house, and we have begun making preparations to do so.
- c. Currently, those in the house have no doubt in their minds that they are in the best fraternity to ever exist! We also have great school spirit, but have no faith in our local IFC chapter to be a part of it.
- d. With the majority of the actives being newly initiated, the National Fraternity is somewhat of a shadow that has little existence in our chapter. We all feel that this is something that will be changing soon, beginning with this general convention.
- e. The active chapter and the alumni chapter occasionally do not get along. Both organizations are fighting for the same cause, but try to do it in different conflicting ways sometimes. However, we have been able to cooperate more efficiently lately to better advance the growth of the active and alumni chapters.

IV. Finances

- a.

	April 1, 2000	March 31, 2001
Checking:	\$4740	\$1385
Savings:	\$7266	\$4823
- b. Please see the attached 2001-2002 budget drafted by the Active and Alumni chapter.
- c. The building fund is taken care of by the Alumni chapter. It consists of taking a small portion of the rent money (paid to them) and setting it aside in an interest building bank account. This portion will be put towards the liability for the insurance on our house. Another portion is put into an account for repairs, and the rest is used to pay bills.
- d. We do not currently use promissory notes but there is a clause in our housing contract binding them to their financial responsibilities.
- e. The active chapter simply does not have enough income to cover all costs and to put on lavish events. We have been able to cut some corners and save money to keep the house alive. Now that we have more members, financial problems are becoming less of an issue.

V. Housing

- a. The fraternity "house" consists of three separate buildings. Each separate part of the house has bedrooms, a common area, and a substantial amount of restrooms. Two of the buildings are wood framed structures, and the other is concrete. The current maximum occupancy is 31 people distributed in single, double, and triple rooms. The optimum occupancy is probably one person per room, which would be 16 people.

- b. The past renovations have been roof repairs, remodeling of several rooms, replacing dining room and one bedrooms flooring, converting a room into a library, painting walls, and rewiring phone, cable, and network lines throughout the house. We have recently renovated three bathrooms. The outstanding needs for the house include new windows, and improve the electrical. There are plans to fix our porch, remodel three more rooms, and bring the house in its entirety up to code.
 - c. USC's policies towards controlled substances are rather general. Besides alcohol, all other drugs are illegal and not allowed. This rule applies to campus, university housing, and Greek organizations. Our house rules also forbid the use of such controlled substances. Alcohol is allowed under strict supervision and only for those people over the age of 21. There are some policies regulating the visitation of women to a fraternity house such as restricting females from entering bedrooms, especially during and after parties. The university has many policies, rules, and regulations for risk reduction for the university that are basically the same as outlined in the pledge manual.
 - d. All members who live in the house are required to sign the attached housing contract.
 - e. Right now the only housing problems that exist are the houses are so old and run down that just about everything needs a fix-up. We are in the process of slowly doing so as money is available. The foundation is falling apart, walls are cracking, the electrical is poor, and everything is just generally old. We don't have any problems making housing available at the moment, but if another big pledge class comes through this next fall we may have some issues.
- VI. Risk Reduction
- a. The chapter has Risk Reduction programs for alcohol, health and fire. Fire inspectors come to the house about twice a year to inspect the smoke detectors in each room, and any potential fire hazards. We usually pass with no problems, but we had a small issue with our attic and basement containing flammable materials such as carpeting and wood furniture, but the problem was corrected very quickly. A city health inspector will show up at least once a year to suggest any health or safety solutions. Recently we have been informed to replace baseboards in kitchen for pest control, fix exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathrooms, and repaint the bathroom walls to remove mildew. For alcohol, we always make sure some actives remain sober during parties to help prevent any unfortunate incidences. We never allow drunk driving, and always offer to walk inebriated people home.
 - b. The risk reduction policy is introduced in the pledge semester and covered thoroughly. Each following semester, the actives are reminded of the policy and that we must follow the rules. There is no fire emergency plan right now, and obviously we do not practice one. But there are smoke alarms in every room, adequate amounts of fire extinguishers and exits.
 - c. There have not been any significant problems with risk reduction for quite some time. Most members have smart heads on their shoulders, and most do not perform foolish acts that are dangerous.
- VII. Scholarship

	Fa 99	Sp 00	Fa 00	Sp 01
Alpha Chapter GPA	3.02	2.92	3.03	2.95
All Men's University GPA	2.88	2.94	2.2	3.3

- a.
- b. There is an in house library designed to maintain academic files, however it is currently not being used, and most of the outdated information has been thrown away. The library is on ongoing project we have been working on slowly as time permits.
- c. The chapter does have a scholastic chairman. His duties include setting study and quiet hours, reviewing member's grades, determining actives academic probations, making a calendar of important academic dates including class drop deadlines, finals, and individual exams and report due dates. He has not had much of role these past few semesters because we have not had many members to be put on academic probation. Now that we have more actives, the scholastic chairman will be required to perform his duties to the fullest extent.
- d. Second to only the welfare of ones family and self, scholarship is the most important aspect of our college years.

VIII. General

- a. Unfortunately, with the shortage of manpower that we had this past year, we did not help with any professional programs in order to focus more on RUSH and the pledges. But now we will be looking into how we can assist the school of engineering and other engineering organizations.
- b. Because our main focus consisted of the pledge semester, the only other special activities that occurred were a few small socials with AOE, which were a lot of fun.
- c. Our chapter rip-off trophy is still having the finishing touches put on it, but basically it is a triangular prism, approximately one foot on each leg and one foot long, made of solid concrete, with the castle painted on it. To my knowledge, we currently do not have any trophies of other chapters.
- d. We expect that the National office does its best to maintain the integrity of the fraternity and also to check up on struggling chapters to try and figure out how they can assist even if in some small way.
- e. We have been revising the chapter by laws this past semester and a new version should be available at the start of this next semester, at which time they will be sent to National.
- f. We have a basic house computer but its bells and whistles became outdated in 1990. However we do have DSL coming to the house that connects to a router, which enables us to have an in house network providing internet access to all the rooms.
- g. We feel the Supreme council is doing a good job of expanding the fraternity, but the western province could use some beefing up! It is had for Alpha to just pack up and go to the Midwest or the east coast. We feel that if we had a closer chapter, we could mutually benefit each other by providing assistance wherever needed.