

In Touch

Social policy part of national trend

The University greek system is an example of a national trend.

With a new social policy enacted this term and passed through the student conduct office two weeks ago, campus chapters are ahead of most other greek organizations.

Both fraternities and sororities have created a social policy on issues such as alcohol use, parties, hazing and rules for rush.

"It's different from last year because the men had a set of guidelines and the women only had a loose set of guidelines," Mark Latimer, greek advisor, says. "Now both are accountable to exactly the same rules and both men and women decide the outcome of a case when there's an infraction."

Latimer says he has heard on only four or five other campuses with the same type of policy.

The policy adds consistency across campuses and puts everybody on the same level, Latimer says. "Unless the women are involved (in the policy), it would be harder to enforce."

The two main reasons these policies are becoming necessary, Latimer says, is because the greek systems are becoming aware that they have to take responsibility for

their activities and because of liability.

"There are so many lawsuits now they can't survive without having it," Latimer says.

The social guidelines for alcohol explain that alcohol can be served or brought to fraternity or sorority parties, but the chapter funds cannot be used to purchase it. The house giving a party must also have a guest list and food must be served.

'There are so many lawsuits now they can't survive without having it.'

—Mark Latimer,
Greek Advisor

Security guards are to be posted at the door of the party to check the guest list and there should be two sober party members to help out with problems.

Almost all of the rules apply equally to the men and women, but the women have additional rules for rush, and they have a requirement to have at least one person to speak per term on social issues such as date rape and eating disorders.

—Anna Rembecki



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