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It's been a 'quiet year so far' for ASC Greeks

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ALFRED — Alfred University is not the only college concerned with the actions of its Greek organizations.

Dan Neverett, vice president for student affairs at Alfred State College, said ASC also works with its Greek organizations to keep students out of trouble. He noted there is one organization at ASC that has not been recognized by the college since 1998 because of its violations of campus codes.

Other Greek organizations on campus, however, have cooperated with ASC officials regarding both campus policies and local and state laws.

“We've tried to improve that in our Greek houses,” he said. He thinks the requirements set by Alfred University for its Greek houses are reasonable. “This will reinforce the legal requirements surrounding social events,” he said, especially regarding the use of alcohol. The groups need to have temporary permits to sell alcohol, and they need security to prevent underage drinking. He said he has found the ASC organizations he has checked on have had the necessary permits and security measures in place.

The Greek organizations, however, can't always control individual behaviors, he said. Some people will have only one or two drinks at several places, but it adds up.

Neverett said ASC extends its condolences to the family of Ben Klein.

“A lot of our students knew Ben, and I think it did impact them,” he said. “It's very sad what happened, and it could happen on our campus.”

ASC's new requirements reflect what should have been happening all along, and, in many cases, was, Neverett said. However, he asked the question, "Will it change behaviors?"

Neverett raised a concern about the lack of involvement in the organizations. "A lot of the Greek organizations are having a hard time to get membership.” He attributes it to the fact that it is hard to get students involved in any activities. Students have other priorities, he said. Some of the school's programs are very demanding. Many students have jobs to earn money for school. Students stay in their rooms working on their computers. "Kids just don't have time to do those things," he said.

"They (Greek organizations) had a niche providing social programming; they may still on some campuses." Having a house helps attract students, but the fraternity Gamma Theta Gamma is the only ASC group with a house.

Neverett added it "isn't just the Greeks" who can get in trouble on campus. “Students don't think of the long-term implications of what they do."