Fraternities, sororities will stay at Alfred

By ROB PRICE
Staff writer

ALFRED — Alfred State College President John O. Hunter told about 200 students Tuesday night that he would speak to them as both the college president and "as a fellow Greek."

"We stand on entirely new ground," Hunter said. "I hope we will seize this opportunity to walk it together."

Hunter told the Greeks he was accepting the report of the President's Commission on Greek System Review "without qualification."

The report recommends the Greek system at ASC be placed on a "special probationary status" until December 1, 1991. The special probation is intended, the report said, to allow the administration and the Greek leaders to build new relationships for the governance of the Greek system.

Committee Chair David Schwert said the status would have the effect of "an erasure, and we're starting clean slate."

In addition, the report makes recommendations for a reorganization of the Greek system that would include increased faculty participation in Greek life and stricter academic standards for Greek students.

In addition, Hunter said the presidents of two fraternity houses whose charters had been revoked by the college were welcome to contact his office to set up appointments "so we can discuss the process by which charters will be recognized."

"I identify with Greeks," the president told students, describing his own experiences as a member of Theta Chi, a national fraternity he joined "when I was eighteen."

"The question I have," he said, "is, what kind of future do you want? I know what I want. Do we want the same thing?"

Hunter also announced he would seek sweeping changes in the Greek governance system. He called for a "revitalized Greek Council" and said "I want to be proud of you."

Questions following his remarks tended to be critical of the academic reforms that the report calls for. One student said the standards discriminated against athletes, and another asked what percentage of first-year students had grade averages of 2.5 — the minimum requirement for "Honor's Pledging" of first semester freshmen.

Hunter responded he was willing to talk about those concerns when he meets with fraternity presidents; however, he defended the establishing of academic standards. "The main purpose of being in college is to be successful in your academic career," he said.