Alfred imposes new rules on fraternities, sororities

By ROB PRICE
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ALFRED — Fraternities and sororities have been granted a reprieve at Alfred State College — under a “special probationary status” — but if the recommendations of the President’s Commission on Greek System Review are put into effect, the ASC Greek experience will undergo some significant changes.

The Commission recommends the probationary period continue to Dec. 1. The period, according to the report, “will allow the administration and Greek leaders to build a new relationship for the governance of the Greek system.”

Also during that period, “fraternities and sororities currently recognized may apply for continued charter recognition.” The report recommends that “a process for evaluating applications be developed by the administration.

“Any fraternity or sorority not demonstrating good faith in the development of and compliance with new Greek standards will be denied recognition.”

In addition to calling for a wide range of reforms in the Greek system, the recommendations also call upon the administration and faculty of the college to “work more closely with the Greek system.”

Specifically, the report states that “faculty and staff of the college will need to volunteer for work with the individual houses or with Greek Council.”

In presenting the report to students Tuesday, Commission Chair David Schwert said faculty in the past have been concerned with legal liability if they serve as fraternity advisors.

Schwert said, however, faculty advisors would receive written appointment by the college president and thus be indemnified by the State of New York.

The report recommends that each Greek organization obtain at least one advisor who is a faculty/staff member at ASC. “This advisor must have full access to the house at any time so that he/she may attend meeting and social activities.

In the area of academic standards, the report recommends “First semester freshman will eligible for ‘Honor’s Pledging’ if they have a demonstrated midsemester index of at least 2.5.” Any first semester student with a grade average below 2.5 will be ineligible to pledge during this semester.

Other students will be allowed to pledge a fraternity as long as they have earned semester and cumulative grade averages of 2.0.

All Greek students, the report says, “whose semester and/or cumulative indexes fall below a 1.75 will immediately be placed on an inactive status by their house, and they shall remain inactive until their index is above a 1.75.”

Noting “ample evidence that alcohol and, to some extent, illegal drugs, are an integral part of certain Greek establishments,” the report recommends “no alcoholic beverages may be consumed at any rush or pledging functions.” Students showing signs of “having consumed alcoholic beverages or a controlled substance shall be barred from that function.”

Also a faculty/staff advisor “must be present at all formal pledging activities.”

The report called hazing a “perennial problem” for some Greek houses, and called for its prohibition pursuant to Section 6450 of the New York State Education Law.