**UND Strategic Planning**

**Greek Council Focus Group**

**Six (6) Attendees**

**Student Focus Group Questions**

1. Why did you choose to attend UND?
   1. “Probably the weather”; UND aviation program; Parents from Grand Forks; affordable; inexpensive; buddy spent three time what I did at Embry Riddle; Campus setting is a lot better than other NDUS institutions; especially with tour
   2. From GF, ND; both parents went to UND; having a job and a car here; Dad went to school for commercial aviation; Almost went to NDSU for business; Aviation management program tipped the decision making; best of both worlds at UND, business and aviation
   3. Out of state students, aviation; after touring, one of best schools for aviation; affordable institution; switched majors but brought by aviation; out of state, Denver, CO. Originally was commercial aviation, then saw UAS program; Parents saw the options that existed within the college. NDSU does have Greek system, but not as tight knit;
   4. Comparing other NDUS schools/colleges, better opportunities, and majors/programs at UND; 3+1 programs, etc. are an asset; variety of programs and expense; UND looks a lot more like a campus should versus NDSU; Greek life here is a lot more connected and is a better option at UND versus NDSU
   5. Heard how reputable Nursing program, parents were stationed here in 90s; from St. Cloud, MN; Can walk everywhere on campus, campus size is an asset.
   6. Fargo, ND; not far from home, but independent still; personal reasons versus academic; price was very reasonable
2. How do you describe UND to your family, friends, and neighbors?
   1. People are pretty friendly, maybe not Yik Yak; in general, haven’t had a bad experience walking around campus; graduated high school in Germany, parents in Germany – ran into multiple people wearing UND apparel while in Germany;
   2. Easy for UND students to take classes and within campus, but in Grand Forks there isn’t as much to do; Joining a fraternity created an almost “hobby” for me; Big hockey school, friends/family, try to plan visits based around hockey schedule; Feels like an NHL game; mostly known for hockey; love wearing chapter letters, helps make connections; UND is great for UND connection and fraternity connection;
   3. With Greek Life got to be a part of student government and other student organizations, helped to expand resume; UND is a growing institution; student government is working to make UND more inclusive environment; help students to feel at home at UND, not only students of color but with mental health; student government and other student groups working on meeting student needs; A lot of pilots when travelling show their UND pride;
   4. Hard to find people who look like me or are from similar background; people want to learn and are very friendly; welcoming;
   5. Students have a decent amount of pride attending here; in campus feel like you are a part of family; whether in class or sitting in the Memorial Union; people are friendly, interconnected under umbrella of being a student;
3. Who does UND serve, and do you believe we are currently meeting these needs?
   1. Attendance for philanthropy events, attendance is pretty low; mostly is just other Greek houses who attend these events; Not a campus presence at these events; Not a specific reach out to residence halls, utilize social media outlets; hard to reach students who only are on campus once or twice a week; would be great to utilize other avenues; students from dorms may come to food events for philanthropies; A few peers in residence halls had preconceived notions of Greek life; students in the past have wanted to rush, but parents were preventing them from joining – had to sit down and discuss with parents;
   2. One of only schools with law, nursing, medical school, and aviation; part 141 program and pathway programs; go straight into airline industry opportunity; for us they are 100% meeting needs; seems to be a stigma about Greek life, look at composites from previous years and can see a decline; I was the student who had preconceived notions of Greek life; Got a house tour and started to change impressions; Finding the right people to group up with, have a perception but may not fully understand Greek life; Parent perception impacts choice to join Greek life; Help to set the plan for and meet expectations for aviation students;
   3. We are serving leaders in action; multitude of organizations; lots of ways for student organizations to find funding and create events; part of SOFA, give out money for student groups without need to use personal fund; Not all groups can use the same resources for messages or communicating with campus; There are a lot of steps to access communication channels; Greek life events give off insular impression, hard to break that perception; As a freshman, focus on school and feel too busy for Greek life; Advertise the benefit while balancing time;
   4. Interest was lower this past recruiting season, need to meet numbers for budgets and needs; not sure why there was less interest; We aren’t marketing, but there are multiple steps to access these resources; PHC president when I was a freshman, core memory that I could follow that leaders example; Seeing girls at exp that had various images and bodies, could see myself in Greek life;
4. Who do you believe it should be serving and what do you think needs to change for this to happen?
   1. Go into Robin hall and it is super nice, I’m also in ROTC – shows who UND really cares about; facility needs attention and is not getting help
   2. Underrepresented students and students from LGBTQ+ populations; more work that can be done for these student population;
5. What has the university done to benefit you or your student organization most? What might the university do better to help you, or your student organization succeed?
   1. Help to build connections and resume; Being in Greek life helped connect me to Student Government and started a new organization; Sometimes family doesn’t understand Greek life, but the community in Greek life is a huge asset and support;
   2. Having the UND president being a Greek student, a PIKE; Having him as an alum and being able to understand Greek life is an asset; if didn’t join my sorority, I’d have transferred out of UND; In chapter, there is always someone who is in something who is able to participate with, help learn about opportunities;
6. What have been your best experiences at UND?
   1. 100% agree with residence hall change being a negative, enjoyed suite style setup, really easy to meet people; people in long hallway residence hallways don’t know anyone from their hall, but I knew everyone from my hall; I’m sure the residence halls will be nice;
   2. Best experience has been in my fraternity; easily relate to my pledge class, going through the same experience; sad to see some of the residence halls being torn down and replaced by long hallways; some of my core memories happened in the lounges of residence halls, still friends with those students I met my first year; informal interactions were convenient and ready made in suite style setup, easy to go eat and find people to do those activities together; suite setting helped me grow;
   3. Smith hall didn’t have lobby or suite so is part of the reason I hated my first semester; One of only organizations that lives together – Greek life; 20 roommates via the chapter;
7. Would you recommend UND to your family and friends, why or why not?
   1. I would recommend, no reason not to; depends on what you are looking for; some majors, if not involved may not be best place;
   2. No regret choosing UND; would not be same person if at a Big Ten school or really big school; see kind of familiar faces when in routine;
   3. A lot of family/friends from Bismarck say they don’t want to stay in North Dakota; was originally going to Chicago for school; have a one on one mentor through program; mentor program may not be available at a bigger campus; mentor has helped figure out internship; studying for law school and mentor is helping plan additional options if not able to make it to law school; want to go somewhere other than UND for law school; For law school want to attend somewhere in Minneapolis, Chicago, or Seattle;
   4. UND and Grand Forks is a perfect blend, just a big enough pond
8. Can you see yourself returning to UND as an alumnus?
   1. Heard from so many people that Grand Forks finds a way to pull them back;
   2. For sure come back to UND, go to hockey games; see the new guys at the chapter; If only a few connections may be harder to come back; a lot of returning alumni would be Greek;
9. As a student, what concerns you most about UND? What do you think needs improvement?
   1. Parking would be great if they could figure that out; house is far enough from academic building must drive; I know nothing about bus system or anything about it; have to pay for Greek parking pass, but then pay for A/S parking pass; Doing a good job for the most part, no obvious thing that stands out as something that needs to be fixed;
   2. Bus could be advertised more, was a huge asset for me; Utilize the bus system more;
   3. Could look into bus system, but don’t know anything about it since change to city bus system; I know there is an online tracker; Lean towards just driving; As an aviation student basically forced to buy a parking pass; almost no one takes the aviation shuttle; shuttle is almost exclusive to international students; would require much more time to plan and use bus and shuttle system; airport forces permit; If I wanted to park in lot to use my student pass it would require me parking farther away; just tried to park on street;
   4. Parking services; When you see a $40 ticket on your car when you are stressed; live off campus so easier to drive versus taking bus system; regardless if you live on campus, have to get a permit; Transportation is limited in Grand Forks which further creates the need for car; Just wondering what parking service fees or costs goes? Wish parking services would listen to student input; seems like they don’t care to listen, especially with student senate; Recycling, all the bins go into the same places; Could do better job of recycling;
10. What would be your vision for UND’s future? Do you have any ‘big dreams’ for the institution?
    1. Big push with people not needing to go to college now; companies dropping college requirement; going to have to be innovative and make it worth it; have to make college actually worth attending; UND needs to focus on other areas, Nursing school is drawing interest and it needs help;
    2. From aviation standpoint, when travelling – being more involved with the actual industry; so pronounced in the aviation/UAS industry, if more departments could assert themselves into that area should be a goal for UND
    3. Our chapter is one of the more diverse chapters at UND; wants to see UND become more diverse and inclusive; can’t wait on new Nistler; Only advertise certain majors; better advertise other programs;
    4. Greek life expanded more; expand another fraternity and sorority on campus; new nursing building would be nice;