

Trustees Task Force on Greek Life begins work

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A Trustees Task Force on the future of Greek life at Alfred University began its work this morning with an organizational meeting on campus. Dr. Gene M. Bernstein of Roslyn Estates, NY, a 1969 alumnus and past chairman of the Board of Trustees, chairs the eight-person panel. Other members include Trustees Robert Daggett of Bradford, PA, a 1981 alumnus; Michele Cohen of New York, NY; Ruth Scott of Rochester; and Christine Kulp of Brighton, NY, a 1971 alumna who co-chairs the Parents Association and is vice chair of the Alumni Council; Dr. Thomas Peterson, professor of religious studies; Andrea Gill, associate professor of ceramic art; and Dr. Susan Strong, associate provost and vice president for enrollment management. "Our goals at the first meeting were simply to outline our what we hope to accomplish; get a sense of the information we are going to need; and set a timetable, all of which we accomplished" said Bernstein. He said the task force will be looking at the past, present and future of the Greek system at Alfred University, but within the broader context of student life as a whole at the University. Bernstein anticipates the task force, formed by the Board of Trustees at its Feb. 16 meeting, will examine a wide range of options, from allowing the Greek system to continue with some modifications to abolition of fraternities and sororities altogether. "I want to stress that this task force will be thorough and fair in its deliberations," said Bernstein. In order to accomplish that, he stressed the need to hear from all constituent groups - students, alumni, faculty and parents, as well as members of the community. "Part of what discussed today was how to elicit not just emotional reactions, but thoughtful assessments about the future of fraternities and sororities on this campus from each of those groups," said Bernstein. The Trustees charged the task force with making its recommendations "at the earliest possible time." Bernstein has set a goal of making at least a preliminary report to the board for consideration at its May meeting. To accomplish that, Bernstein anticipates the task force will meet every other week through March and April.