Sustainability Chair: Job Description

Bill Brown, the Director of the IU Office of Sustainability (IUOS) defines sustainability as, “thriving within our means”. In a new initiative from the university, the IUOS is trying to bring this type of sustainable thinking to IU’s Greek community. As a microcosm of greater society, the Greek community yields a great deal of opportunity to reduce waste and institute more sustainable practices. Therefore, the IUOS is developing a Greek sustainability program, which will be led by a network of Chapter Sustainably Chairs (CSC). With each chapter’s participation the program will support the IUOS further pursue their 2020 Vision sustainability goals.

In a coalition between the IUOS, the Office of Student Life and Learning, the Panhellenic Association, the Interfraternity Council, and UNIFY, the program encourages the appointment of a Chapter Sustainability Chair (CSC) through IU’s Greek life. The CSC position provides an exciting leadership opportunity for chapter members and trains them on how to develop sustainability-related initiatives within their chapters. Acting as liaisons for the chapter, the Chapter Sustainability Chair will help enhance communication with the IUOS and increase participation in its programs and event.

Throughout the process, chairs will receive support from IUOS’s sustainability interns. The chairs will be trained and walked through a resource guide of potential initiatives demonstrated in other chapters on campus. The CSC’s set their own goals and communicate with their chapter to determine sustainability priorities. Chairs are expected to work within the chapter to examine and prioritize what initiatives are most suitable. With a network of active and passionate sustainability chairs, the Greek community can reduce its environmental footprint and lead the campus in instilling a culture of sustainable awareness.

IUOS Goals for Greek Community:
1. Reduce the Greek community’s environmental footprint (Energy and Waste)
2. Embed sustainability into the culture, core values and administrative decision-making process.

Benefits for the Chapter:
- Opportunity to create a positively impactful program for your chapter
- Lessen the chapter’s impact, improve environmental health and reduce long-term costs
- Positive publicity for your chapter’s national organization

Benefits for the Chair:
- Serve as the first CSC for the chapter, helping shape the program
- Learn relevant and marketable leadership, management and sustainability-related skills
- Gain involvement in chapter (house points, etc.)
- Work at your own pace with guided support from IUOS
- Leave a meaningful legacy for your chapter and Indiana University

Qualifications for CSC Position:
- Lives within the chapter (optional)
- Active leadership and strong management skills
- Passionate in the topic of environmental sustainability