

Duke University's Split-Total Proposal

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As discussed in the NPC/Duke University Conference Call on April 29th the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life formally propose that Duke's Panhellenic Association implement a split-Total system. This method has been implemented at other institutions that, like Duke University, participate in deferred formal recruitment. At this time we feel that implementing a split-Total with a lower Total in the fall than in the spring semester would assist us in decreasing current chapter sizes. This decrease in size would prove beneficial for the following reasons addressed in great detail during the aforementioned Conference Call. These reasons include:

1. Campus space constraints
2. Difficulties with chapter management for Panhellenic chapter presidents
3. Continued conversations surrounding future Panhellenic extension efforts

Our current Total is set at 114. Total at 114 in the spring is acceptable. Total at 114 in the fall, prior to formal recruitment, has led us towards undesirably large chapter sizes. In the fall a few of our chapters participate in COR to reach total prior to formal recruitment in January. Participation in COR in order to meet Total is often strongly encouraged by the national organizations. Chapter quota in 2008 was set at 32, but with quota additions one chapter received 34 new members. Currently, 8 out of 10 chapters meet or exceed Panhellenic Total and 9 out of 10 chapters met or exceeded quota during formal recruitment in January. One of the chapters that does not meet Total only missed the number by one member while the other chapter has not met or exceeded Total for the past few years.

Duke's best option is to implement a split-Total for our fall and spring semester. Our ideal chapter size is 120-125 women. This goal is taking into account space options on Duke's campus and the capacity limitations of these spaces. We understand that it would take multiple cycles of split-Total to achieve this goal but we think implementing this method would be a great initial step in this process.

There are three numerical methods that can be used when determining Total. Using the average chapter size would be the best method to adhere to when deciding the split-Total that will be used for our Panhellenic chapters. Our average fall and spring chapter sizes for the past three years are listed in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1

Average Fall Chapter Size	
2006	95.2
2007	88.6
2008- Projected	88.7
Overall Average	90.8
Average Spring Chapter Size	
2006	125.5
2007	119
2008	115
Overall Average	119.8

We understand the importance of continuous open recruitment/bidding for the chapters as well as the potential new members; therefore we want our chapters to be able to participate in COR. The spring 2008 chapter sizes and the projected fall 2008 chapter sizes are listed in the table below. A fall Total in the mid 90's, would allow five of our ten chapters to participate in COR. The most any chapter, other than Alpha Omicron Pi, could add would be 6 members. This minimal usage of COR by other chapters could prove useful to Alpha Omicron Pi due to this chapter's reliance on COR to increase its membership numbers. Table 1.2 details the current and projected chapter sizes of our ten Panhellenic organizations.

Table 1.2

Chapter	Spring 2008 Chapter Sizes	Projected Fall 2008 Chapter Sizes
Alpha Delta Pi	138	102
Chi Omega	113	89
Alpha Phi	123	96
Delta Gamma	130	102
Alpha Omicron Pi	31	26
Kappa Alpha Theta	122	91
Pi Beta Phi	129	97
Kappa Kappa Gamma	126	94
Delta Delta Delta	121	94
Zeta Tau Alpha	117	96
Total:	1150	887

On the next page table 1.3 details chapter membership numbers for the past three years. Formal recruitment data along with demographics of the Duke female population for the past three years are also included below.

Table 1.3

Chapter Membership Numbers (Spring)			
Chapter	2006	2007	2008
Alpha Delta Pi	141	134	138
Alpha Omicron Pi	61	54	31
Alpha Phi	103	117	123
Chi Omega	121	111	113
Delta Delta Delta	147	129	121
Delta Gamma	132	119	130
Kappa Alpha Theta	138	128	122
Kappa Kappa Gamma	143	131	126
Pi Beta Phi	144	134	129
Zeta Tau Alpha	125	133	117
Total	1255	1190	1150

Formal Recruitment Data

Spring 2006- 303 new members, 8 unmatched, 88 withdrawals, and 9 quota additions

9/10-met quota (Alpha Omicron Pi), 8/10 met or exceeded Total (Alpha Phi and Alpha Omicron Pi)

Spring 2007- 304 new members, 8 unmatched, 98 withdrawals, and 10 quota additions

9/10-met quota (Alpha Omicron Pi), 8/10 met or exceeded Total (Alpha Omicron Pi and Chi Omega)

Spring 2008- 305 new members, 17 unmatched, 60 withdrawals, and 8 quota additions

9/10-met quota (Alpha Omicron Pi), 9/10 met or exceeded Total (Alpha Omicron Pi)

Duke's Undergraduate Female Population

Fall 2005: 2977

Fall 2006: 3055

Fall 2007: 3028

According to Kendrick Tatum, Office of the Provost Institutional Research, Duke is in the middle of a four-year increase in which we are adding 50 students per year through Fall 2008 (increasing the number of engineering students). At that point, enrollment is expected to remain constant at around 6700 undergraduate (roughly 48 to 50% are women).

Critical Questions

What percentage of the campus community is a sorority woman?

About 40% of Duke's campus community is sorority women.

What would be the ideal chapter size on this campus?

120-125 women would be the ideal chapter size. This number is taking into account the capacity of the largest spaces we are able to reserve for chapter meetings.

Are there limitations to chapter size? Why?

Yes, there are limitations to chapter size because of the limited availability of large spaces on campus for chapter meetings, chapter programming, and formal recruitment. Duke's Panhellenic chapters are non-residential and do not have designated space on campus.

Are there existing chapters that could benefit from CPH help and support?

Yes, Alpha Omicron Pi has been continuously helped by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life as well as by the Panhellenic Association to help increase its chapter size. We will continue making the efforts to assist this chapter in partnership with the national organization.

Is it time to bring a new chapter to the campus through the NPC extension process?

Our goal is to implement the split-Total and see what affect this has on our Panhellenic community. We will continue to discuss extension and understand that the best way to decrease our chapter sizes is to lower Total and extend. Duke's last extension took place in 2005 with Zeta Tau Alpha and at that time it was thought that another extension would need to occur in the near future.

Our recommendation is to implement a fall Total of 95 beginning in fall 2008. The spring Total of 114 would be allowed to remain the same. We will also continue working with Alpha Omicron Pi to revitalize the Delta Upsilon chapter. Extension will continue to be a discussion item and we will continue to monitor our community for signs of readiness and necessity of an additional Panhellenic organization.

Our plan is to vote on this proposal at the beginning of the fall semester. Please read, review, and share your opinions with your Panhellenic Delegate. The representatives from each Panhellenic chapter informally agreed to support the split-Total initiative during the NPC Conference Call and we hope that we can still depend on your support in our continuous efforts to support Duke's National Panhellenic Conference organizations.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, Krystal Clark, at krystal.clark@duke.edu or by phone at 919.684.9441. I will be available throughout the summer in the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

Thank you for your support. We appreciate your assistance with this endeavor.