

Involving Online Students in Your Chapter

Chapter Strengthening Session

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Challenges to involving online students:

- Never successfully done before
- Forget about them? No!
- Charter new chapter? No!
- Administrative advisor for online programs? Yes!

How to choose an administrative advisor for online programs:

- Choose the person from the online program who has called and asked questions about Alpha Chi
- Interest and willingness to invest time in Alpha Chi
- Knowledge of online students and their culture
- Familiar to the students – emails, questions, avoid the “another honor society scam” mentality

Encouraging membership:

- Familiar administrative advisor
- Early introduction to Alpha Chi
- 63% online graduate accepted membership this year (52% face-to-face graduate, 60% undergraduates)
- Something that we (and the participants) found interesting was when we sent out both the official email from Alpha Chi and a paper invitation to the students’ permanent addresses. For our undergraduates, the parents are the one who usually opens the letter, encourages the student to join, and offers to pay for it. Josh Jones, our online grad student representative, said his wife opened the letter and told him he had to join. Seeing the invitation on ACU letterhead makes it appear more official and students will expect the email. We get funding for postage from our Student Association every year.
- Another thing that we found (which was not good) was that many university’s spam emails filter out official Alpha Chi emails. This makes the process harder for those advisors.
- Other ideas?

Virtual induction through Facebook live:

- Facebook live is easy to use and everyone has access to it

- We advertised this to the online students that they would be involved in the ceremony
- Right before the ceremony, we let the undergraduates know what we were doing
- Many of the parents who could not attend the ceremony watched via Facebook live
 - We had not expected this result, but it was a neat benefit
- Read the names of the online students along with the students that are at the ceremony
- 750 people viewed the induction
- Allowed the online students to be able to interact with the induction ceremony
 - “That’s me! I am so honored to be a part of Alpha Chi.” – online student from induction
- The students who couldn’t attend the induction at that time now had the opportunity to be able to watch the induction ceremony later

Scholarship applications and convention attendance

- Scholarship applicants?
- Online student as delegate
- Online student as student representative

Virtual attendance at chapter activities

- Other ways that we have included online students is to record our chapel events and send them to online students after the fact. We are planning to use Zoom to incorporate this a little better in the future.
- Who hosted two more scholarly events on Facebook live the Tuesday after the convention. The idea is for us to virtually invite the online students to as many campus activities as possible.
- Examples:
 - Service event – missed opportunity – making blankets for the International Rescue Committee (Refugee aid in Abilene)
 - Idea for online: Take a blanket to a refugee center in home city