

Greek Life Boycotts Tailgate

Saturday September 1st celebrated a very important day to the Florida International University and its community, the first home game for the football team. Accordingly, it was also time for the tailgate season to begin. Following the Greek pause that happened last year, Dr. Rosenberg along with many other administrators in our university believed the tailgate policies were too lenient. Hence an email was addressed to all the student body discussing new policies set in place to make tailgates safer and a more healthy experience, yet taking away all the key factors that made FIU tailgates so great.

These policies set in place included no DJ's for any group participating in the tailgate, people with a group of more than 10 had to register and pay a fee to save parking spots, these spots were randomly displaced through the Lots 4 and 5 to make sure more people were mixing with each other. Administrators also set up Alcohol free zones for students and people who didn't want to drink or feel pressured to drink, this area was to be filled with free food, activities, and goodies. The policies tried to help the FIU experience yet the Greek community wasn't happy about said new rules that were detrimental to them being able to tailgate as a group.

Tailgating rules were the start of the whole ordeal. Following this past week SGA MMC President Jose Sirven upholder a new agreement for the GC area, where organizations like IFC, PC, MGC, NPHC and others were going to be mandated to pay for these room reservations that were once free, but also not be able to charge students for entrance in key events like philanthropy pageants. Lack of communication and a lot of confusion brought the Greek life council together deciding to boycott the tailgate and the football game, as administrators and the athletics team are working really hard to get students to participate in more games.

Following the meeting and very stressful hours, Sirven holds a forum open to all of the Greek Community and key individuals like Dr. Rosenberg, Chris Medrano, Jose Toscano, Dr. Bejar, Dr. De Santis, among others. During the meeting IFC, PC, MGC and NPHC Council presidents were all present as well as other members of their organizations. The forum was for the administrators to hear the concerns of the Greek community and amend the lack of communication that seemed to exist.

Sirven said in the forum, making the Greek community aware, that the reason for the GC Room Agreement was because for years FIU had been going against a statute of Florida in regards to the funds that SGA has over the area. Hence, for his term his team and him decided it was time that all this community worked by the rules. However, he acknowledged he had made a mistake of not being communicative enough in regards to this change and consequently hurt the Greek and other organizations that use this money raised by charged entrance events to raise money and awareness for their distinct philanthropies. However, he was able to solve the problem with Dr. Rosenberg and the money for the room reservations will be taken from another fund and hence not funded by SGA so no rules are broken.

Another necessary problem to tackle for the Greek community was them voicing concern in regards to the administration not trusting them enough to hold a safe tailgate and hence why so many new policies were tackled without discussing it with the community. As not attending games and boycotting tailgates affected athletics, they were also there agreeing with the cause for the communities' concern but disagreeing with how they went by since at the end it hurts the athletes and the community that has worked hard to increase school spirit. Administration pledged to hear the community more, and the Greek members agreed to become more united as a result of all these seemingly unfair challenges that had been thrown to them that threatened them to exist rather than allowed them to grow.

This forum was the first of many more open talks for the Greek life community, its members and administration. If we can get one really important lesson out of this experience is that communication is the base of everything and that a university cannot run without being in sync with what the students or the communities desire. There always is a happy medium for both parties and I thoroughly hope an agreement can be met that benefits both administrators and the Greeks.