

Marilyn L. Russell

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Skilled and passionate professional with over 20 years of experience in higher education. Proficient in building and leading teams; effective in supervising, advising and coaching staff and students, challenging and supporting student organizations, and cultivating and maintaining stakeholder relationships. Proven record of creating programs, utilizing assessment and evaluation tools to identify challenges, analyze complex situations, and develop innovative solutions that align with the shared goals of a robust co-curricular experience.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Strategic & Critical Thinking	Motivational Team Leadership	Conflict Resolution
Program Creation & Management	Network Building	Culturally Conscious
Policy Development	Relationship Management	Training & Facilitation

CAREER EXPERIENCE

Executive Director of Student Involvement

May 2025 - Present

Office of the Dean of Students, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Serve as a critical member of leadership team for the Office of the Dean of Students. The Leadership and Involvement portfolio encompasses the dynamic opportunities for students to interact and build community on campus. This portfolio includes support for all registered and sponsored student organizations, Sorority and Fraternity Life, organizational development, risk reduction, and hazing prevention, large-scale campus programming, and off-campus living.

- Oversee all involvement initiatives for the Office of the Dean of Students, including student organizations, risk reduction and hazing prevention, Sorority and Fraternity Life, large-scale campus programming, and off-campus living. Direct priority departmental programs, such as the Successful Student Organization Program, Longhorn Playbook, Texas Roundtable, and student organization development opportunities and events.
- Recruit, supervise, develop and evaluate staff in the involvement area, including direct supervision of the Associate Director of Sorority and Fraternity Life, 2 Associate Directors for Student Organizations, and the Associate Director of Off Campus Living and DoS Signature Programs.
- Provide oversight for student, departmental, and stakeholder engagement with Dean of Students as it relates to student organizations, including policy implementation, review, and recommendations. Direct Student Organizations staff on processes related to event requests, free expression activities, and amplified sound.
- Coordinate the budget development and provide financial oversight for a 1.2 million dollar wage and programming portfolio. Steward development/grant funded programs, services, and resources. Provide leadership to enhance development and fundraising strategies.
- Serve as a member of the department leadership. Lead special assignments within the University, Office of the Dean of Students, and the Division of Student Affairs. Participate on University committees representing the Office of the Dean of Students.

Director of Student Organizations

April 2024 – May 2025

Office of the Dean of Students, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Responsible for providing strategic leadership and oversight for the Student Organizations portfolio which includes Sorority and Fraternity Life, Student Activities, and Organizational Development and Risk Reduction in the Office of the Dean of Students.

- Lead the vision for, implementation, and evaluation of all elements of the Student Organizations portfolio, including the Student Organization Center, student organization processes and policies for 1000+ registered, sponsored, and Greek organizations, awards and recognition programs, communication and outreach, and assessment.
- Recruited, selected, trained, and evaluated Student Organizations staff, direct supervision of the Associate Director of Student Organizations and Associate Director of Sorority and Fraternity Life.
- Served as a liaison to UT departments, advisors, alumni representatives, Greek councils, national and advisory organizations, and community partners
- Communicated and promoted the trends, initiatives, and interests for student organizations.

- Interpreted, enforced, advised, and recommended changes for university policies and procedures related to student organizations, including space/facility usage, permitted/prohibited activities, registration, and travel.
- Coordinated with the Associate Director of Organizational Development and Risk Reduction and Student Conduct and Academic Integrity to provide proactive risk management efforts and respond to organizational conduct concerns.
- Supported strategic initiatives, lead/assist with special assignments, represented the Dean of Students on campus-wide committees, and served in the absence of the Executive Director of Student Involvement.

Director, Sorority and Fraternity Life

October 2014 – April 2024

Office of the Dean of Students, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Responsible for the health and safety of approximately 6000 (14.5% of the undergraduate population) students affiliated with the sorority and fraternity community. Developed and maintained relationships with potential and active members and officers, alumni, local and regional volunteers, parents and families, campus partners, and national headquarters. Acted as a coach and mentor to full time and paraprofessional staff and a collaborative colleague to all in the Office of the Dean of Students, the Division of Student Affairs, and units and offices across campus.

- Managed over \$250,000 area budget for operating expenses and donor funded initiatives.
- Collaborated with VPSA Development Staff to pitch, manage, and maintain donor relationships.
 - Secured a \$1 million dollar commitment (2014), a second \$160,000 commitment (2018) and a third \$100,000 commitment (2022).
- Developed, maintained, and advocated for strong relationships with our external stakeholders at all levels of leadership in the university.
- Hired, supervised, and trained up to 6 full time employees and 4 graduate assistants.
- Advocated and grew a full-time director level staff role in SFL focused on prevention and risk management support for all registered and sponsored student organizations.
- Initiated, coordinated, and maintained our university relationship with Stop Hazing (2018 – 2021)
 - Member of the second cohort of universities in the Hazing Prevention Consortium
 - Supervised efforts to distribute campus wide hazing survey 2018 and 2021 resulting in an increase in reports of hazing and a reduction in reports of violent hazing incidents.
- Overhauled and maintained UT Austin's Safety Education Program which trains almost 1000 student leaders a year from our sponsored and registered student organizations.
- Supported hiring, supervision, and training of 7 Peer Safety Educators, University Leadership Network Interns, student administrative employees.
- Co-Founder, BeVocal, the campus-wide bystander intervention initiative which has resulted in more awareness of harm on campus, thousands of educated students, faculty and staff and increased reporting. (2012 – Present)
 - Proposed, presented, and secured \$24,500 in SSBC funding for new Bystander Intervention initiative (2014)
 - Supported funding proposal to UT Regents which was allocated \$1.4 million dollars for three years of support of the bystander initiative.
 - Co-Chair of BeVocal Committee - Managed budgeting and spending of over \$100,000 funding award from the UT Board of Regents (2014 – 2018)
 - UT System's Bystander Intervention statewide consultant and annual conference planning team member (2014 – 2019)
- Coordinated and advised the University Panhellenic Council members with on-campus rules compliance, inter/intra-fraternal dynamics, leadership initiatives, training and recruitment policies governing over 3000 members.
- Developed curriculum, applied and maintained flag status, lead all support and communication and co-instructed Sorority and Fraternity Leadership Issues course, College of Education. (Various semesters from 2009-Present)
- Responsible for annual assessment plans, strategic plans, and office goal setting for the area.
- Section coordinator for the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Biennial Review, Clery Act Reporting for last 6 cycles.

Deputy to the Dean of Students

October 2012 - October 2014

Office of the Dean of Students, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Responsible for the day-to-day operations and individual student support of the three legislative student bodies on a campus serving over 50,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Coordinated details for campus wide elections. Supported student leaders with their leadership objectives and broad initiatives that crossed all campus units and departments.

- Advised three sponsored student organizations: Student Government, Senate of College Councils, and the Graduate Student Assembly.
- Coordinated the Governor's nominations for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and UT System's Student Representative to the Board of Regents.
- Coordinated campus-wide elections which included elected student representatives for the Student Government, Graduate Student Assembly, Texas Student Media, University Unions Board, Events and Entertainment, and the University Co-Op.
- Co-Advised the Election Supervisory Board who oversaw campus wide elections.
- Organized and developed on boarding training for all new officers – New Officer Orientation.
- Extensive experience with updating and implementing governing policies and support of Roberts Rules of Order.
- Experience fielding and responding to high level media inquiries.

Coordinator of Sorority and Fraternity Life

March 2009 - June 2018

Office of the Dean of Students, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Advisor to the University Panhellenic Council, a student governing organization of 14 sororities making up over 3000 total sorority and fraternity community members. Coordinated large events for the unit and alongside student leaders, brought together new committees of volunteer advisors, sought critical feedback for improvement of the panhellenic community and maintained a strong membership in the Office of the Dean of Students committees and teams.

- Advised the University Panhellenic Council members with on-campus rules compliance, inter/intra-fraternal dynamics, leadership initiatives, training and recruitment policies.
- Supervised a graduate assistant each year.
- Developed, planned, recruited, trained, and coordinated an off campus Greek Leadership Retreat with more than student 60 attendees and 10 staff as faculty for the weekend.
- Developed curriculum, applied and maintained flag status, and co-instructed the Greek Leadership Issues class listed with the Education Psychology department. Average class size 20 students.
- Author of area's social media guidelines and outreach strategy.
- Assisted in founding Not on My Campus, a SFL affiliated, student led interpersonal violence initiative which grew to host train the trainer peer educator trainings each semester.
- Responsible for tracking financial income and expenditures, distribution of student organization funding grants, and documenting decision-making processes for student and area programs.
- Initiated changes in feedback protocols, area publication development and technology usage to increase outreach and impact with stakeholders.
- Requested and supported the National Panhellenic Conference Audit (Consultant Team Visit) during formal recruitment 2015. Coordinated all 14 national headquarters staff visiting all events during a major event.
- Composed, distributed, and sought IRB approval for a Panhellenic Survey to PNM's and Active members following recruitment annually.
- Communicated with the Office of the Dean of Students and Central Development gift officers on fraternity and sorority development initiatives which culminated in a major gift dedicated to supporting the Sorority and Fraternity Life unit.

Greek Life and Student Organizations Advisor

February 2007 - March 2009

Center for Student Involvement, University of California, San Diego

Created and executed a vision and mission to serve students affiliated with Greek Life on campus. Charged to build robust programming and inclusive opportunities to engage and foster a strong student experience.

- Advised 36 sorority and fraternity chapters, 3 governing councils, and 3 Greek affiliate programs on issues of chapter management including membership recruitment, new member orientation, academic development, risk management, service, and finances.
- Counseled Greek and Social category organizations on event planning, including securing appropriate venues, compliance with health and safety regulations, determining appropriate security, and developing publicity campaigns.
- Interpreted relevant university rules and regulations as it relates to event planning, risk management, constitution, bylaws, expansion, and recruitment.
- Organized and executed three formal Panhellenic sorority and IFC fraternity recruitment programs.

- Developed Greek 101, a New Member Development Program, which includes a new member orientation, risk management, leadership, and service component.
- Created and Co-coordinated an advocacy group, Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA), in collaboration with the Sexual Assault Resource Center.
- Revitalized annual Greek Week programming to include the Multicultural Greek Council as well as added a hands-on service project day.
- Planned and executed two EXCEL Leadership Conferences, with average attendance of 600 students and a budget of approximately \$15,000.
- Coordinated logistics to bring nationally recognized experts to campus to conduct keynote addresses, educational seminars, and small group meetings. Included scheduling, contract negotiation and budgeting.
- Coordinated planning and implementation of campus wide, pre-recruitment event, Greek Block Party.
- Developed the first Greek Life website for www.ucsd.edu.
- Reactivated Phi Gamma Delta (2007), Established IFC chapters of Triangle, Zeta Beta Tau, and Kappa Sigma (2008), and Panhellenic Affiliate Phi Sigma Rho Sorority (2008)
- Worked with Alpha Gamma Alpha, Alpha Epsilon Omega, Sigma Pi Alpha, and Psi Chi Omega to establish and organize their new chapters as part of the Multicultural Greek Council.

Student Organizations Advisor & Community Service Coordinator

October 2005 - February 2007

Center for Student Involvement, University of California, San Diego

Advised and hosted event consultations for student organizations identifying as community service, spiritual, and social organizations. Organize, plan and execute community service and service-learning opportunities with student teams for the campus at large.

- Advised organizations on event planning, including procuring appropriate venue, compliance with health and safety regulations, and determining appropriate security.
- Provided consultation for 128 student organizations regarding decision-making, problem solving, officer and membership supervision, as well as goal development and implementation.
- Interpreted, advised, and insured compliance of student organizations with university policies and procedures.
- Coordinated and co-facilitated campus wide community service projects taking charter buses of students to various off campus service sites such as American Pie: What's Under the Crust? UCSD Cares, MLK Jr. Day of Service, Art Miles Mural Project, and International Education Week.

Resident Director

June 2004 - August 2005

University Towers Residence Hall, San Diego State University

Tasked to create a more unified residence hall experience within a private dormitory setting. Utilizing the wellness wheel, developed a vision for the residence hall, live in standards, elevated student team training and programming, and adjudicated behavior of residents.

- Managed evenings and weekend on-site/on-call duty for 560 residents.
- Recruited, trained, scheduled, supervised, and evaluated 9 Resident Assistant.
- Adjudicated conduct hearings and applied creative educational sanctions.
- Developed, marketed and implemented community building programming for a diverse population of students.
- Facilitated weekly staff meetings for 8 staff members during the year, and 16 during the summer months.
- Supervised summer conference staff of 17 and coordinated linens, room inspections, maintenance issues, keys and customer service for various summer camps and tour groups.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts - Postsecondary Educational Leadership, Emphasis in Student Affairs

San Diego State University, San Diego, California

Graduate Assistantships - Center for Fraternity and Sorority Life & Residential Education Office

Bachelor of Science - Zoology

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Co Instructor, Sorority and Fraternity Leadership Issues, 3-hour course,
EDP 369K/ELP 351N The University of Texas at Austin,
Fall & Spring 2009 – 2016, Spring 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023

SELECT PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Certifications:

Certified Student Affairs Educator, The Higher Education Consortium for Student Affairs Certification, 2022
Student Affairs Core and Fraternity and Sorority Life Specialty CSAEd & CSAEd-FSL
Ally Training, Gender and Sexuality Center, The University of Texas at Austin, 2009, 2018 & 2022
True Colors Certified Facilitator, VPSA Division Initiative, 2013 - 2020
Social Justice Mediation Training, Office of the Dean of Students, The University of Texas at Austin, 2012
RESPONSE ABILITY Level Two Certification, 2012

Presentations:

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Annual Conference Faculty Presenter

- Russell, M., McKusker, S., Hammell, S., Trattnor, M., Gwillim, C. "Creative Partnerships with Purpose: Using Artwork to Facilitate Deeper Dialogue Around Harm Prevention" Virtual Conference, 2021

Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors (AFA) Annual Meeting Faculty Presenter

- Russell, M. & Burrows, E. "Creating a Culture of Collective Accountability on College Campuses through Active Bystander Behavior" Nashville, TN, 2014
- Russell, M., Rotgers, T, Mason, J., Hartwig, H. "Behind the Headlines: Advising Student Organizations in Times of Media Crisis" Ft. Worth, TX, 2015
- Wiser, G., Doctor, A., Russell, M., Johnson, C., Phillips, K. "OWN IT: Your Role as a Mid-Manager in Fraternity and Sorority Life" Atlanta, GA, 2017
- Russell, M. & Murphrey, A. "Hazing Starts in their Hometown: A New Way to Approach Prevention" Anaheim, CA, 2019
- Russell, M. "Closing the Gap: Investing in Successful Student Organization Culture" Indianapolis, 2024

AVPS INTENSIVE 301: A Deeper Dive into Prevention and Accountability, Panelist, 2025
"The Past, The Present, The Future," Hazing Prevention Outreach, Houston, TX, 2019-2022
Zeta Tau Alpha National Harm Reduction Rotational Facilitator, 2017 - Present

- Alcohol Skills Training Program (ASTP), & Healthy Belongings, Relationships and Sexual Violence Program (RSVP)

Zeta Tau Alpha National Harm Specialist – 2022-Present
Pi Beta Phi Critical Conversations Facilitation Team, 2017 - Present

- Alcohol Skills Training Program (ASTP), Every Act of Yours, Discovering Sincere Friendship, Sisterhood, Safety and Sexual Assault

LeaderShape Institute, Cluster Facilitator,

- AFLV National Session, University of Kansas, Summer 2015
- UT Sorority and Fraternity Life Session, 2015 & 2016

"BeVocal: Fine Tuning your Bystander Activism," Feminist Action Project Conference, 2017
BeVocal: Bystander Intervention Initiative of The University of Texas at Austin) Campus Facilitator, 2013 – Present
Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI) Facilitator, Texas Christian University Campus Edition, 2012
IMPACT Facilitator, Texas Christian University Campus Edition, 2012
"Preparing for the Zombie Apocalypse," Texas Leadership Summit, Spring 2012
Interactive Workshop Facilitator, CAMPUSPEAK, Inc, 2010-2018

- PersonalPower, Building New Leaders, Leadership Plunge, Council Surge, Finding Your Why

SELECT UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Texas at Austin

• Successful Student Organization Program Committee Member/Facilitator	2023 - Present
• Provisional Return Committee	2023 - Present
• Stop Hazing, Hazing Prevention Consortium Member	2018 - 2021
• Wellness Network Board Member	2012 - 2019
• BeVocal, co-founder and chair	2012 - Present
▪ UT Systems Bystander Intervention Consultant	2014 - 2019

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazing Prevention and Education committee member 	2015 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpersonal Violence Committee Member 	2009 - 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Use Committee member 	2009 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off Campus, Private Dormitory Committee member 	2009 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Dean of Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rally Duty Team Member • E-Duty Team Member • Investigation Team Member 	2009 - 2015 2010 - 2019 2009 - 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair, Executive Director Search Process, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity 	2020
University of California San Diego	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search Committee Chairman, Community Service Coordinator 	2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCSD Nomination Chairman - Presidents Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll 	2007

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & INVOLVEMENT

Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors (AFA), Member	2007 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation Faculty, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2024 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First 90 Days Mentor 	2011 - 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate Staff Selection Committee 	2011 - 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominations and Election Committee 	2019 - 2020
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Member	2009 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference Faculty 	2020 - 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Managers Institute Graduate 	2017
Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity	1997 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Officer Positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Traveling Leadership Consultant, 23 Unique Campus Visits ○ Harm Reduction Mentor/Specialist and Rotational Facilitator, ○ Director of New Chapters, The University of Texas at San Antonio ○ Director of New Chapters, Colorado State University 	2001 – 2002 2017 - Present 2009 – 2014 2007 - 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Various Board Positions in San Diego, CA and Austin, TX 	2005 - 2019
National Panhellenic Conference	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Panhellenic Conference Area Advisor 	2018 – 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Panhellenic Conference Area Advisor 	2024 – 2026
North American Interfraternity Conference	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards of Distinction Judge 	2024 & 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRIME and IFC Academy Facilitator 	2024
University of Arkansas Alumnae Association	2001 – Present

AWARDS

The University of Texas at Austin, Staff Merit Award Recipient	Spring 2019
Zeta Tau Alpha Honor Ring Recipient	Summer 2014
The University of Texas at Austin, Eyes of Texas Campus Service Recognition	Spring 2012
Community Advisor of the Year, Center for Student Involvement	Spring 2008
Administrator of the Year, Sigma Chi	Spring 2007