**Introduction**

Since 1872 the collegiate fraternity and sorority experience at The Pennsylvania State University has given opportunities to add value to the undergraduate student experience. Founded upon basic principles that promote social, moral, and educational development, the fraternal experience provides opportunities for individual, organizational and institutional growth and success.

The Pennsylvania State University recognizes that the fraternities and sororities governed by the four governing councils are an important part of student life and can have a positive impact within the fraternity and sorority and greater campus communities. However, the privilege of fraternities and sororities to exist at the University as recognized student organizations comes with a high level of responsibility.

The success of the institution’s fraternity and sorority community is a shared responsibility. This responsibility is shared, in varying respects, by collegiate members, fraternity and sorority chapters, the four governing councils, fraternity and sorority alumni, advisors, national and international organizations, and the University. The relationship between the institution and the fraternity and sorority community is one that must be mutually beneficial. In order to enhance and promote this mutually beneficial relationship and maximize the positive elements of the fraternity and sorority experience, the individual chapters and their officers and members, the governing councils and the University wish to state their common expectations with respect to their relationships.

**Responsibilities of Individual Chapters**

1. All chapters must abide by any and all University and council policies, including, but not limited to, the Code of Conduct, Council Policies, Student Organization Policies and Rules, and applicable local, state, and federal laws.
2. All chapters must submit new member education plans to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) each semester.
3. All chapters must adhere to applicable national and/or international organization’s new member program.
4. All chapters must initiate new members in accordance with applicable national and/or international and University guidelines by the date established by the OFSL. No initiation activities may occur after such date.
5. All chapters must participate in specific educational opportunities:
   1. New members shall participate in OFSL-sponsored educational programs and trainings.
   2. Officers shall participate in the OFSL -sponsored Officer Academy and shall receive additional yearly training as needed.
6. All chapters must participate and strive to excel in the yearly Standards of Excellence process as noted in the Standards of Excellence Operations Guide.
7. All chapters must not permit any individual to participate in any chapter activities who has not paid his or her Greek Membership Fee and signed a copy of this Statement.
8. All chapters shall secure authorization for and not impede the University monitors’ access to all common areas of the chapter facilities upon request if a chapter has housing. Common area is understood to be that portion of the building that is used by and intended to benefit all residents of the facility and their invitees.  It does not include private areas, such as bedrooms and accompanying bathrooms, or the hallways that adjoin them.   Common areas typically include gathering spaces, such as foyers, lounges, dining areas, and designated social or party spaces, as well as the facility’s main kitchen.
9. All chapters must have one or more official Chapter Advisors approved by their national or international organization. Where no national or international organization exists, an organization must meet the Chapter Advisor requirements of recognized student organizations.
10. All chapters must ensure that their faculty/staff advisors have acknowledged the responsibilities of being an advisor to a recognized student organization at Penn State.
11. All chapters must keep up-to-date rosters with the OFSL, including up-to-date membership, officer, advisor, and house corporation rosters.
    1. For academic reporting purposes, chapters must have academic release forms for each member and new member on file with the OFSL.
12. All chapters must maintain insurance with at least a two-million dollar general aggregate and a one million dollar per occurrence liability policy and list The Pennsylvania State University as additional insured.” Proof of insurance must be delivered to the OFSL every year.

**Responsibilities of Chapter Officers**

1. Chapter members, when elected to a position of chapter leadership, shall govern with integrity and work with each other and their respective alumni/alumnae in chapter operations.
2. Chapter Officers shall work to actively promote the values of the organization.
3. Chapter Officers shall encourage, support, and provide developmental opportunities for their members.
4. Chapter Officers shall hold members accountable, and work in concert with their alumni/alumnae, respective Council and the University to enforce the expectations set forth in this Relationship Statement.
5. Chapter officers shall accept responsibility for supporting the policies and goals of the chapter, and holding themselves and fellow chapter members accountable to organizational policies.
6. Chapter Officers shall serve as representatives and liaisons between their Governing Councils, and the University.
7. Chapter Officers will represent their organizations in organizational misconduct proceedings when appropriate.

**Responsibilities of Undergraduate Chapter Members**

1. Chapter members recognize that membership in a recognized student organization such as a fraternity or sorority is a privilege and by voluntarily associating with a Greek organization, agree to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, chapter and Governing Council policies, policies of their respective national and international organizations, University policies and local, state, and federal laws.
2. Chapter members acknowledge that individual and group misconduct can result in the chapter losing recognition.
3. Chapter members should report to a University employee any activities involving hazing, sexual misconduct or other harm.
4. Chapter Members shall attend mandatory educational programs offered by the University.
5. Chapter members shall conduct themselves as respectful members of the community within which they reside and will demonstrate respect toward their fellow community members.
6. Chapter members shall pay the Greek Membership Fee each semester in an amount established by the University to help defray the cost of the University’s support of fraternity and sorority programs.

**Responsibilities of the Governing Councils**

1. The Governing Councils [Interfraternity Council (IFC), College Panhellenic Association (CPA), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and Multicultural Greek Council (MGC)] will oversee their fraternity and sorority chapters as outlined in their respective constitutions and by-laws as approved by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL).
2. The Governing Councils will set and uphold standards of conduct for member chapters that uphold University and national organization expectations and promote integrity, leadership, responsibility, safety, and brotherhood/sisterhood.
3. The Governing Councils will hold conduct and judicial procedures for chapters and members that violate council constitutions and by-laws, which will be separate from the University conduct and adjudicative process.
4. The Governing Councils will promote Greek unity on campus.
5. The Governing Councils will coordinate their efforts with the OFSL to oversee member fraternities and sororities to ensure active involvement in programs and activities.
6. The Governing Councils will work with the OFSL to support and provide opportunities to member fraternities and sororities in the Standards of Excellence process.
7. The Governing Councils will continually promote the basic principles of fraternity and sorority life including academic achievement, brotherhood and sisterhood, service and philanthropy, leadership, alumni involvement, and social responsibility.

**Responsibilities of The Pennsylvania State University**

In connection with providing recognition, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL), Office of Fraternity and Sorority Compliance, and the Office of Student Conduct shall have the ability to assess the conduct and contributions of fraternity and sorority chapters and amend recognition statuses accordingly in accordance with policies established from time to time by the University.

1. The University will provide advisement for chapters and councils.
2. The University shall oversee the fraternity and sorority organizational misconduct and adjudication process.
3. The University shall take steps to enforce social policies and monitor social events.
4. The University will publish a Greek Chapter Scorecard that will be made publicly available to review by chapters, students, faculty, staff, community members, parents, and other interested parties.
5. The University will provide pre- and post-recruitment educational programming for students wishing to join and who recently joined Greek-lettered organizations associated with the OFSL.
6. The University will offer developmental opportunities for members and officers.
7. The University will provide recruitment and retention advice.
8. The University will provide training and development opportunities for chapter and campus advisors.
9. The University will provide access to University resources in accordance with University policies.
10. The University will, through the Standards of Excellence process, evaluate individual chapters, provide advice to chapters that fall below the given standards, and hold chapters accountable if they continue to not meet the standards.
11. The University will provide educational resources to parents.
12. The University will create a process that will allow for transparency and clear accounting of the Greek Membership Fee and a bi-annual review of this Relationship Statement that will include students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

**Signature Page(s)**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the Relationship Statement and understand my obligations as a member of a fraternity/sorority. I also acknowledge that my failure to meet the expectations outlined in this Relationship Statement may result in me and my organization being held individually and/or collectively responsible for doing so. Additionally, I will not participate in illegal activities, which include, but are not limited to, hazing, sexual assault and supplying alcohol to those who are under the legal drinking age.

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