

# **A STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES AT OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **PREAMBLE**

Oklahoma State University recognizes the opportunity for scholarly, personal, and social development offered through membership in a national/international fraternity or sorority (hereafter referred to as fraternity). Students who choose membership in fraternities are offered alternative living-learning experiences designed to enhance their formal education. Participation offers developmental opportunities through supportive friendships, leadership development, mentoring by alumnae/alumni and upper classmates, scholastic achievement, moral development, ethical conduct, social awareness, and commitment to service.

Oklahoma State University acknowledges the significant contributions fraternities make toward the development of a sense of community within the University. Loyal alumni support and fraternity members' participation in campus activities, student leadership and community service is beneficial to the general welfare of the University.

The University further acknowledges the substantial investment made by fraternity house corporations and alumnae/alumni advisors to provide and maintain alternative living accommodations for undergraduate students.

Oklahoma State University, by extending invitations to establish undergraduate chapters of selected national/international Fraternities and Sororities, endorses their founding and operating principles as long as they remain complementary to the educational process and purposes of the University.

Oklahoma State University recognizes the responsibility for the Greek System is shared among the undergraduate chapter membership, the alumnae/alumni, the fraternity, and the University. Therefore, all components must work in accord toward the common good, general welfare, and education of the students who comprise the Greek System of Oklahoma State University.

To facilitate and enhance this shared relationship, the responsibilities of each component group must be clearly articulated, communicated, and understood. Therefore, the purpose of this document is to set forth a set of expectations and responsibilities for those who share in the oversight and guidance of the Greek System at Oklahoma State University.

## Article I

### The Responsibility of the University to the Greek System

At Oklahoma State University, undergraduate fraternity and sorority chapters (hereafter referred to as chapters) and their respective student governing councils (National Pan-Hellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic, Multicultural Greek Council) (hereafter referred to as councils) are established and operate at the formal invitation and continued recognition of the University. The Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities acknowledges fraternities both as Recognized Student Organizations and as Living Groups (for those that operate chapter housing for its members).

Section 1: In accordance with the Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities, Greek Life chapters, colonies, honoraries, and organizations are granted status as Recognized Student Organizations by virtue of their membership in the University's Interfraternity, Panhellenic, National Pan-Hellenic, or Multicultural Greek Councils. As such, they are afforded the same benefits as all other recognized student organizations. These are:

1. The opportunity to use designated University facilities for regularly scheduled meetings, usually at no cost.
2. The opportunity to use the student notices section in the Daily O'Collegian.
3. The opportunity to use unrestricted bulletin boards on campus, with the proper registration.
4. The opportunity to be listed in any published Student Handbook.
5. The opportunity to use the non-postage campus mail service for distribution of materials pertaining to the business of the organization.
6. The opportunity to participate in University intramural sports programs.
7. The opportunity to use the name of the University to show affiliation.
8. The opportunity to request the allocation of student fees through the process designated in the bylaws of the Student Government Association.

By granting this recognized status, the Governing Councils (IFC, Panhellenic, NPHC, MGC) and their member chapters and organizations must comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and all Oklahoma State University policies governing student behavior, as prescribed in the Statement on Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Section 2: Oklahoma State University recognizes, as living groups, those chapters and colonies that provide housing owned and/or managed by established alumnae/alumni corporation boards or fraternities. They, therefore, share the same rights, responsibilities, and privileges afforded other forms of University-recognized housing (e.g. residence halls and university apartments). Non-inclusive examples of benefits afforded to these student living groups, as administered by the Office of Greek Life, are:

1. The privilege of housing freshmen students.
2. The opportunity to establish an organization account within the Bursar's Office of the University.
3. The opportunity to purchase goods and services from the University and through the University's purchasing procedures.

4. The receipt of prospective student information essential to recruitment efforts of the organizations, as administered by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs.
5. The right to request and receive through the Department of Campus Life academic information essential to assessing scholastic performance of the organization, according to official procedures.
6. Access to and use of other educational and computing support service.
7. The right to process a hold on a student's records for non-payment of contractual obligations to his/her chapter. (Doing so will restrict the registration of individual members who fail to meet the financial obligation of their fraternity or sorority housing [room and board] contracts.)

Section 3: The University provides and supports an Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs sufficient to advise, program, and administer the on-going development and operation of the Greek System.

Section 4: Oklahoma State University recognizes the value of governance provided by the North American Interfraternity Conference, National Panhellenic Conference, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council, as well as the right of national/international fraternities to govern their collegiate organizations. However, in case of conflict among policies, the policies of Oklahoma State University will take precedence.

## Article II

### The Responsibility of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs

Section 1: Although the University acknowledges, supports, and values self-governance as part of the collegiate Greek experience, the University believes that self-directed activities can be facilitated and enhanced through stable and guiding relationships with qualified and experienced professional personnel of the University. Therefore, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs personnel are responsible to advise the self-directed activities of the governing councils of the Greek System, including Interfraternity, Panhellenic, National Pan-Hellenic, and Multicultural Greek Councils. The role of such advisement includes coordinating, training, guiding, counseling, supporting and assisting the councils to function effectively within the frameworks of the University, North American Interfraternity Conference, National Panhellenic Conference, and National Pan-Hellenic Council policies.

Section 2: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs will provide advisement to all council standing committees, including but not limited to, scholarship, risk management, new member education, social, service, recruitment and others that may be deemed necessary by the councils and/or the University.

Section 3: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs will partner with the Office of Student Conduct to provide advisement and guidance to the Judicial Boards of the Interfraternity, Panhellenic, National Pan-Hellenic, and Multicultural Greek Councils. The primary responsibility for processing disciplinary issues, however, lies with the Office of Student Conduct.

Section 4: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs will provide advisement to major University-wide Greek programs, Greek Life honoraries, and organizations sponsored by the councils. These events/groups include, but are not limited to, Greek Week, Spring Sing, Greek Discovery Day, Order of Omega and the Greek Ambassadors.

Section 5: Although the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs is not responsible to serve as primary adviser to individual chapters, the office should serve as a positive resource for advice, counsel, support, and guidance for chapter officers. Therefore, staff should work to develop effective relationships with chapter leaders through regular meetings, officer training, and chapter visitations.

Section 6: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs will serve as an advocate for the Greek System. As such, its staff will speak for and represent the students who choose affiliation in fraternities on issues within the University and community that affect them.

Section 7: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs is responsible to serve as the University liaison to the national fraternities whose collegiate chapters are recognized at OSU. The Office is expected to communicate and appropriately direct institutional concerns and suggestions for programs, services, and remediation of chapter problems to the national organization.

Section 8: The University acknowledges as worthwhile the values of student self-determination and responsibility in leadership. Therefore, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs will work primarily to facilitate chapter and council officer training,

leadership development, and program planning that will foster these qualities but will reserve the right to intervene in council and chapter affairs when policies or laws have been violated by the organization.

Section 9: Because the University acknowledges the value of chapter advisers and house corporation boards to chapters, each chapter is required to have a faculty and/or chapter adviser. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs is responsible for developing lines of communication with chapter advisers to enhance the partnership between organizations and the University. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs, in an effort to develop “partnerships”, will:

1. Conduct training workshops for faculty and/or alumnae/alumni advisors that review the duties and responsibilities of an adviser as they pertain to university and Greek System policies.
2. Conduct regular meetings between advisers and the Greek Life staff to promote the exchange of information.

Section 10: The University requires each chapter that provides housing for its membership to employ a live-in house director. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs is responsible for:

1. Reviewing and endorsing the hire of House Directors;
2. Conducting annual training workshops for house directors; and
3. Conducting regular meetings to enhance communication and share information with the house directors.

Section 11: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs is responsible for providing information that is in accord with the Privacy Act to the University and others who may inquire.

Section 12: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs is responsible for assimilating and maintaining records/data for evaluation and analysis to discover trends and enhance the advisory role of professional staff.

Section 13: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs is responsible for supervising the maintenance of activity records of the Interfraternity, Panhellenic, National Pan-Hellenic, and Multicultural Greek Councils. The records would include, but are not limited to, membership roles, scholarship reports, social registrations, programs, projects and publications, the collegiate council's minutes and budgets, judicial board activity, etc.

Section 14: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs is responsible for recommending policy to the collegiate councils and the University.

### Article III

#### The Responsibilities of the Student Governing Greek Councils

Section 1: The collegiate Interfraternity, Panhellenic, National Pan-Hellenic, and Multicultural Greek Councils are responsible for serving as the governing bodies for the Greek System and its member chapters. The collegiate councils are expected to establish and communicate policy, rules, and regulations (within established policies of the University, North American Interfraternity Conference, National Panhellenic Conference, and National Pan-Hellenic Council) that outline codes of operations and standards to its member chapters.

Section 2: The collegiate councils are responsible for developing policies that meet the basic elements of organizational socialization by providing a set of rules and principles that outline expected values, norms and behaviors.

Section 3: The collegiate councils are responsible for developing policies that establish basic standards for member organizations. Standards would support an expectation for scholarship, risk management, membership/recruitment, new member education, and social activities.

Section 4: The collegiate councils, through governance, are responsible for supporting and enforcing duly adopted policies, rules, and regulations that govern student behavior.

Section 5: The councils, as self-determining organizations, are responsible to the University for their operation, activities, budgets, programs and publications.

Section 6: The elected councils' leadership is responsible to be knowledgeable of their respective constitutions, by-laws, and policies, as well as University policies and the respective council's guidelines.

Section 7: The elected collegiate leadership is responsible to communicate council, university, and national policies, rules and regulations, and guidelines to member chapters through their collegiate council representatives. In addition, the elected collegiate leadership, council representatives, and member chapters are expected to adhere to and abide by all policies, rules and regulations, and guidelines of operation that are within the established policies of the University, North American Interfraternity Conference, National Panhellenic Conference, and National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Section 8: The elected collegiate leadership is responsible to develop a working relationship with the member chapters and their representatives who serve on the councils.

Section 9: As empowered advocates of the Greek System, the councils and their elected leadership are responsible to represent accomplishments and concerns of its membership, as well as recommend policy affecting its constituencies to the University and community.

Section 10: The council leadership is responsible for developing and supporting regular lines of communication with staff in the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs and other University offices and personnel as deemed appropriate.

## Article IV

### The Responsibilities of Collegiate Fraternity/Sorority Chapters

Section 1: National/international fraternities are invited by the University to charter a chapter on campus. Such fraternities must be members of the North American Interfraternity Conference, National Panhellenic Conference, or National Pan-Hellenic Council. Their local colony or chartered chapter must hold membership in the appropriate collegiate governing council.

Section 2: Fraternity chapters shall form and function as single sex organizations (Title IX). Beyond this, however, chapters are responsible to maintain a program of membership recruitment that is inclusive. Each chapter must adopt procedures of recruitment and established membership criteria that will encourage opportunities for mutual selection.

Section 3: Chapters are responsible to educate their membership to the ideals and rituals of their organizations and exhibit these ideals through individual and group behavior and programming.

Section 4: Chapters are responsible to strive for and maintain living environments that enhance and support academic achievement and to practice academic integrity.

Section 5: Chapters are responsible to respect the dignity of all persons. Therefore, chapters will not physically, mentally, psychologically or sexually abuse or haze any human being.

Section 6: Chapters are responsible to protect the health and safety of their membership through programming and education. Chapters that provide housing must develop emergency procedures and establish a regular schedule for fire safety, building, and health inspections. In addition, all chapters are expected to responsibly adhere to fire safety, health, and building regulations/codes as mandated by the City of Stillwater.

Section 7: Chapters are responsible to maintain their property and present a clean and attractive environment.

Section 8: Chapter members are responsible to respect their property and the property of others. Therefore, each chapter is responsible for developing policies that hold its membership accountable for the abuse and/or misuse of property.

Section 9: Chapters are responsible for meeting their financial obligations to their national organization, housing corporation, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs and any entity with which it conducts business. In addition, each chapter is responsible to its Housing Corporation to prepare and approve an annual budget/audit.

Section 10: Chapters are responsible for discouraging the use of illegal drugs and abuse of alcohol. Furthermore, they are responsible for assuring that all form(s) of alcohol use are within the policies of the University and the laws of the city and state. Each chapter that provides housing is responsible for maintaining a substance-free environment on chapter property.



Section 11: Chapters are responsible for holding their membership accountable for compliance with standards and expectations adopted by the chapter, the appropriate student governing council, and its national office(s), and the University for establishing a fair and equitable process for taking corrective/disciplinary/standard action when a member(s) is not in compliance.

Section 12: Chapters will be held accountable by the Interfraternity, Panhellenic, National Pan-Hellenic, and Multicultural Greek Councils and the University for upholding laws, policies, rules, regulations, and responsibilities established by the University and collegiate Greek councils. Violations will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and, in most cases, will be processed initially through judicial boards of the appropriate Council, as authorized and established by University policy and procedures.

## Article V

### The Responsibilities of Greek Alumnae/Alumni and Advisors

Section 1: Chapters are responsible to have an alumnae/alumni adviser. Greek alumnae/alumni should establish and maintain an advisory/corporation board to enhance the quality of operation and activity of the collegiate organization.

Section 2: Advisors/boards are responsible to be informed of their role as prescribed by the National Fraternity in which they are affiliated.

Section 3: Advisors/boards are responsible to be informed about University and Greek System policies, rules, regulations, and organization responsibilities.

Section 4: Advisors/boards are responsible to:

1. serve the chapter in a visible advisory role;
2. regularly attend executive and/or chapter meetings;
3. serve as a resource on University, council, and national policies;
4. advise the chapter on recruitment, social, service, risk management, house management, membership development, initiation, and financial matters;
5. assist the chapter in programming and leadership development.

Section 5: The National Pan-Hellenic Graduate chapters are responsible to serve as a resource when requested by collegiate National Pan-Hellenic chapters.

Section 6: Alumnus associations, clubs, or chapters are responsible to serve as a resource when requested by collegiate chapters.

Section 7: All alumnae Panhellenic associations are responsible to abide by national Panhellenic conference guidelines for alumnae panhellenics and the unanimous agreements.

Section 8: Alumnae/alumni Panhellenic association(s) are responsible to serve as a resource for the collegiate council(s) only when requested.

Section 9: Alumnae/alumni Panhellenic association(s) are responsible to register "system concerns/problems/recommendations" with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs.

This is an official policy of Oklahoma State University passed by the Executive Group on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1998. It is, therefore, a governing document of the University binding upon the constituent groups, organizations and individuals addressed herein.

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Oklahoma State University

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