Philosophy

Stony Brook University acknowledges that fraternities and sororities can have a positive impact on the educational and social experiences of members and others in the campus community. For this to happen, there must be consistency between University goals and those of individual fraternal organizations. This relationship statement provides a mechanism for encouraging congruence of goals and describes the relationship between fraternities and sororities and the University.

The University has a tradition of encouraging individual development through self-government by student groups. Fraternities and sororities recognized by the University will be expected to create and maintain a governance system, which fosters individual and group growth and responsibility.

Definition

In the application of this relationship statement, the University remains committed to the letter and spirit of the Board of Trustees’ Policy on “Affiliation of Campus Student Organizations with National Social Organizations.” These same principles will be applied to fraternities and sororities without (inter)national affiliation.

For the purpose of this relationship statement, a fraternity/sorority is defined as any group, social, service, civic, or professional in nature, that:

A. Utilizes Greek letters in its nomenclature, with the exception of honor societies; and/or
B. Maintains single-sex membership; and/or
C. Has organizational norms consistent with fraternal organizations such as but not limited to: ritual ceremony of initiation, membership recruitment and selection, big brother/big sister, new member education/orientation, wearing letters, etc.

Recognition Policies & Procedures

Recognition is the formal process by which the University agrees that a fraternity or sorority chapter may function on campus, enroll members, and identify with the University. As is the case with University affiliation with any externally incorporated organization, chapters are expected to maintain congruence of goals and standards with those of the University, disclose principles of the organization, and provide mechanisms for accountability.

It is expected that each fraternity and sorority will have a sponsoring body on the National or International level which is a legal corporation external to the University. Stony Brook University does not recognize citywide, regional, or metropolitan chapters and thus, all chapters must be based and chartered exclusively at Stony Brook University. Additionally, recognized fraternities and sororities must limit membership to currently enrolled students at Stony Brook University.

Therefore, it is also the expectation that all fraternities and sororities comply with the approved risk management guidelines of both the sponsoring organization and the University. Any changes in the status of recognition from sponsoring agency must be reported to the Department of Student Engagement and Activities immediately. The University will no longer recognize newly formed local fraternities and sororities. Membership is to be determined locally within the University’s nondiscrimination and affirmative action policies, although chapters may be single sex under Title IX.

The University will communicate with the national and local sponsoring board and provide guidance to officers of the chapters as they fulfill their leadership roles and to assist in the mediating conflicts among fraternities and sororities.
TYPES OF UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION

Full Recognition
Accords all rights, privileges, obligations, and University resources available under the recognition process.

- Receive all of the benefits recognized clubs and organizations receive
- Participation in the Fraternity & Sorority governance system at the University with full voting privileges and the ability to hold an office on the executive board
- Participation in recruitment and new member education / intake as articulated and monitored by the University
- Participation in the programs and activities of the University which are provided for fraternities and sororities
- Receive public acknowledgement with the maintenance of a rock on campus pending availability and University approval

Probationary Recognition
Conditional withdrawal of certain University services or benefits and/or application of specific sanction by the University for a specific period of time.

For specific expansion policies refer to the Expansion Policy.

OBLIGATIONS & MAINTENANCE OF UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION
A fraternity or sorority is assumed to be in good standing as long as the organization meets the following expectations:

- Complete the University’s club and organization recognition process
- Complete required documentation (registration, roster updates, new member education, event planning, etc.) in a timely manner
- Maintain a minimum organizational semester grade point average of 2.5
- Maintain a roster of at least 5 active members for full recognition
- Participate in the Fraternity & Sorority Five Star Accreditation Program and maintain a minimum three star rating
- Participate in the fraternity and sorority governance system
- Abide by all University rules and regulations and all local, state, and federal laws
- Adhere to all rules and regulations maintained by the University including but not limited to University Code of Student Responsibility, Student Club Manual, Fraternity and Sorority Life policies, and governing constitutions and bylaws
- Practice sound financial management

PROCEDURES FOR CHANGE IN UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION STATUS

University Recognition Status Promotion
An organization will move from Probationary to Full Recognition status if it continues to meet the criteria for recognition and is approved for full recognition by the Department of Student Engagement and Activities. Groups placed on Probationary Recognition as a result of conduct related matters may petition in writing for Full Recognition after the successful completion of their sanctions as determined by the Department of Student Engagement and Activities. Promotion within the tiered recognition process is outlined in the Expansion Policy Packet.

The Stony Brook University Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, as a subset of the Department of Student Engagement and Activities, will uphold any sanctions or status changes placed upon organizations by their inter/national headquarters upon notification.

Minimum Membership Number
A review of membership numbers will be conducted each semester and should an organization not meet requirements, the organization will be placed on “Membership Probation” until minimum membership numbers are achieved. The first semester an organization is on “Membership Probation” they will be required to meet with the Assistant Director
for Fraternity & Sorority Life, or their designee, within the first three weeks of the term to create a Recruitment and Marketing Plan that details their plans to increase membership. Programming may be limited at this time.

If an inter/national organization places a hold on New Member Orientation during an organization’s “Membership Probation” arrangements can be made with the Assistant Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life to maintain University recognition.

If an organization has not made a concerted effort to achieve the minimum requirement through membership recruitment/intake at the conclusion of their probationary period the group may lose-campus recognition. Groups who lose recognition will not be eligible for recognition for a minimum of two semesters. Organizations wishing to be reinstated must to follow the steps outlined in the Fraternity & Sorority Expansion Policies for “Organization Seeking Re-Recognition”.

Chapters with no active undergraduate students exceeding a semester must also follow the steps outlined in the Fraternity and Sorority Expansion Policies for “Organizations Seeking Re-Registration”.

_academic status - organizations_

Each organization is expected to maintain a minimum organizational cumulative 2.5 GPA. At the end of each semester a Fraternity & Sorority Grade Report will be completed to ascertain the cumulative GPA for each organization. After the grade report has been completed, should an organization not meet the minimum requirement, the organization will be placed on “Academic Warning” for the next semester. During this “Academic Warning” semester, 1) the organization’s programming may be limited at the discretion of the Department of Student Engagement and Activities 2) the leadership of the organization must meet with the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life in the first three weeks of the term to create an Academic Improvement Plan that details their internal efforts to improve their organizational grade point average, .

If the organization achieves the minimum 2.5 grade point average at the completion of their “Academic Warning” semester they will maintain full recognition and be encouraged to continue their Academic Improvement Plan to ensure their continued success. Full programming privileges will be restored.

If the organization fails to achieve the minimum 2.5 grade point average at the completion of their “Academic Warning” semester they will be moved to an “Academic Probation” status. During this “Academic Probation” semester the organization will need to meet with the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, or their designee, within the first three weeks to discuss and make changes to their Academic Improvement Plan. In addition, the organization will be further limited in their programming in order for the organization to focus on their scholarship. The following types of programs will be allowed at the discretion of the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life in cooperation with the inter/national organization: academic activities, sisterhood/brotherhood activities, hands on community service efforts, and tabling to raise money for philanthropic causes.

At the completion of their “Academic Probation” status if an organization achieves the minimum grade point average they may have limited programming privileges restored and will remain at an “Academic Warning” status for the next semester. If an organization fails to achieve the minimum grade point average at the completion of their “Academic Probation” semester, the University reserves the right to remove campus recognition in partnership with the inter/national organization.

_academic status - individual members_

Each individual member is expected to maintain a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA. Individual member GPAs will be reviewed at the end of each semester as part of the Fraternity & Sorority Grade Report process, and any member who does not meet the 2.5 minimum requirement will be placed on “Academic Warning” for the following semester. During the “Academic Warning” semester, the individual will receive a letter from the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life informing them of their status, and will be required to complete an academic plan by the end of the second week of the semester. This plan must be detailed and specific to the areas of academic concern, and the Assistant Director may follow up with the individual at any point during the semester as to their progress.
At the end of the “Academic Warning” semester, the individual will return to full recognition if their grades meet the 2.5 requirement. Those members who do not meet the 2.5 GPA requirement at the end of the “Academic Warning” semester will meet with the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, where they will be placed on “Academic Probation”. During this meeting an academic plan will be reviewed, which must be specific to the areas of academic concern. During the “Academic Probation” period the member will be inactive and will not be able to participate in chapter activities including, but not limited to, social events, recruitment events, community service programs, etc. Members on Academic Probation may be permitted to take part in academic based events, but only with the permission of the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life.

The University reserves the right to limit a member’s status within their organization if they repeatedly fail to achieve the minimum academic standards expected for active membership, and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life reserves the right to meet with individual members at any time during this process.

**Five Star Accreditation**

Organizations that do not achieve the minimum expectation within the Five Star Accreditation program at the completion of the academic year will be required to meet with the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, or their designee, to create an “Action Plan” to improve their performance. Organizations on an “Action Plan” will be required to meet with a Fraternity and Sorority Life staff member bi-weekly to check in on their progress.

At the completion of the “Action Plan” year if the organization achieves the three star minimum requirement it will remain in good standing. If the organization fails to achieve the minimum for a second year, they will be placed on a second “Action Plan” and will have weekly meetings with a Fraternity and Sorority Life Staff member.

At the completion of the second “Action Plan” if an organization achieves the three star minimum requirement, it will remain in good standing and will be encouraged to continue with their intentional planning. If an organization fails to achieve the minimum three star requirement at the completion of their second “Action Plan”, the University reserves the right to remove campus recognition in partnership with the inter/national organization.

**All Other Recognition Status Changes**

At any time when it appears that a fraternity or sorority has failed to meet criteria for recognition status and/or has violated university policies and procedures, the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life or their designee will issue a directive to appear, temporary suspension, or temporary restriction letter until a determination to proceed is made by the Department of Student Engagement and Activities. The proceeding may result in an investigation and/or hearing conducted by any, or a combination of the following: Student Engagement and Activities Staff, Residential Community Standards Staff, University Community Standards Staff, Dean of Students Staff, University Police Officers, Suffolk County Police Officers.

Alleged violations of the University Code of Student Responsibility and/or local, state, or federal laws may be referred to University Community Standards for an investigation. Should University Community Standards make the determination that there is sufficient evidence to proceed, a hearing notice will be generated, including information on the nature of the alleged violations/policies. Hearings will be conducted in a manner which permits the organization to review evidence, ask questions of those presenting information, bring forward witnesses, and make a statement on its behalf. The organization may be assisted by an advisor of its choice. For additional information regarding the University hearing/appeals procedures, please refer to the University Code of Student Responsibility.

Standards are an important component in a community. Stony Brook University has established expectations for both individuals and groups. All rules and regulations set forth by the University, including but not limited to the Stony Brook University Club and Organization Manual, Fraternity and Sorority Life policies/procedures (New Member, Recruitment / Intake, Risk Management, Expansion, etc.) are applicable to all recognized fraternities and sororities, and they will be held responsible for violation of any such regulations by the Department of Student Engagement and Activities.
When it is determined that a fraternity or sorority or its members have failed to meet expectations set forth by a governing council’s constitutional bylaws, an infraction may be filed with the respective council. As a result, the organization may be sent to a judicial board hearing pending the council’s internal judicial process.

**Sanctions**

Failure to meet the criteria for recognition may result in the imposition of sanctions:

In determining the sanction to be imposed upon a student organization and/or individual, the Department of Student Engagement and Activities will consider the severity of the violation, the impact the violation had on the community, and the disciplinary record of the organization. Examples of disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed upon a student organization or individual include, but are not limited to:

**Full Recognition with Administrative Warning**

The warning will indicate required corrective action and/or educational sanctions and a schedule for completion. If the required action is not taken, or if the schedule is not followed, Probationary Recognition or an extension of the Administrative Warning may be imposed.

**Probationary Recognition**

Organizational probation is for a determined period of time and may or may not involve suspension of specific privileges and the imposition of a schedule of corrective action and/or educational sanctions. In the event that further infractions occur or if the schedule of required action is not met, Suspension or Withdrawal of recognition may be imposed.

**Suspension of Recognition**

Suspension is for a set period of time during which all organizational activities are suspended and all privileges are revoked. Any violation of the suspension may result in Withdrawal of recognition.

**Withdrawal of Recognition**

Upon withdrawal of recognition, all organizational operations must cease. All campus privileges and University permission for the organization to function are revoked. Upon withdrawal of recognition, the fraternity or sorority shall be ineligible to reapply for recognition for five years unless the Dean of Students waives this requirement. Current individual members registered at the University could face campus disciplinary action for failure to comply in accordance with any suspension or withdrawal of recognition.

In a case where a violation has been found but no change in chapter status has been imposed upon the offending student organization or individual, any one or more of the privileges set forth may be suspended.

**Restoration Fees**

The University and the Department of Student Engagement and Activities may assess a restoration fee in the event property is damaged.

**Educational Programming**

Student organizations and/or individuals may be required to complete one or more assignments, projects, activities, and/or other endeavors, which are determined appropriate to the offense and are designed to provide the organization/student with a better understanding of their behavior and that behavior’s impact on others.

**Suspension of Chapter Privileges**

A student organization’s privileges may be limited or suspended for a specified period of time. Privileges that may be suspended include but are not limited to the ability to:

- Recruit members;
- Engage in social functions of any type;
- Use University buildings, facilities, property, and equipment;
• Use University resources, services, or funds;
• Participate or attempt to participate as an organization in any University event; or
• Co-sponsor or participate as an organization in another recognized organization’s activities.
• Partake in activity/privilege/service as limited/revoked as term of their sanction as determined by the Department of Student Engagement and Activities.

**Removal from leadership positions**

*Individuals* who are found responsible for improper actions or violation of policy may be removed from their leadership position by the Department of Student Engagement and Activities.

In a case where a violation has been found but no change in chapter status has been imposed upon the offending student organization or individual, any one or more of the privileges set forth above may be suspended.

**Appeals**

**Grounds:** Decisions and/or sanctions delivered by University Community Standards should be appealed according to the University Community Standards appeal process. Decisions and/or sanctions delivered by the Inter-Fraternity and Sorority Council or the Department of Student Engagement and Activities should be submitted to the University official designated in your disposition. Students/organizations may appeal such findings on the following limited grounds:

a. Significant procedural violations;

b. Substantial new information in support/defense of allegations; and/or

c. The sanction(s) imposed is/are substantially disproportionate to the severity of the violation.

**Application for Appeal:** Students/organizations wishing to appeal a disposition must submit a written application to the designated office within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the disposition. The application for appeal must identify which of the three grounds forms the basis of the appeal. Students/organizations must be in compliance with the disposition at the time of their appeal request and until a final decision on their appeal is rendered.

**Appeal Procedure:** If the appeal has been submitted within the specified time frame and has identified at least one of the permissible grounds for appeal, the designated University Official will review the complete record of the case, the statements of any parties, or any other information in defense of allegations, and where necessary, may require interviews with the parties involved. The designated University Official will be a neutral decision maker who will conduct the appeal in an impartial manner. The student(s) shall be notified in writing of the decision. The decision of the University Official will be final.

**EXPANSION**

Stony Brook University recognizes that expansion is a sign of healthy interest in the fraternity and sorority community. The University considers current student population and resources in all expansion efforts. When a need for expansion is identified and voted upon by the appropriate governing council and approved by the Department of Engagement and Student Activities the following steps should be taken to assure equality in expansion and support in current resources for an expanding organization.

For specific information on expansion, see the Stony Brook University Expansion Policy, which can be found here:

Stony Brook University will not recognize any new local fraternities or sororities. Inter/national fraternity and sorority headquarters or members may not solicit, recruit, or initiate Stony Brook University students without consent of the Department of Student Engagement and Activities. Failure to follow this basic rule will result in a moratorium on the group’s eligibility to expand for a time to be determined by the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, or their designee, that will be no less than two years.

**Membership Recruitment Policies & Procedures**
The way in which fraternities and sororities recruit new members clearly differs from other student groups. New member recruitment and education / intake, is a process that can be fun, exciting, and a tremendous learning experience for students.

The University recognizes as legitimate purposes of new member education / intake the following:

- To educate the potential new members about the ideology, history, and ceremonies of the fraternity or sorority.
- To instruct potential new members on their purpose and responsibility to the fraternity or sorority, to the University and to the community.
- To broaden the understanding between active members and the potential new members, and to promote a sense of unity between them.
- To carry out activities of campus and civic value.
- To continue the tradition of fraternity and sorority membership as a matter of special pride and achievement as long as these traditions do not violate university policies, or place the prospective member in physical, mental, or emotional jeopardy.

An effective new member education process should be sensitive to the traditions of current chapters; celebrate the scholastic pursuits of students; embrace the lives of students not wishing to affiliate with fraternities and sororities; support the normal day to day operation of the University; encourages students to make educated choices; promotes objective, non-discriminatory selection; promotes inter fraternity/sorority cooperation and a positive fraternity/sorority image; and is a positive experience for the potential new member. In an effort to uphold these values, specific guidelines must be adhered to. Those guidelines can be found in the New Member Program Packet.

1. All students participating in the recruitment/new member orientation process must be full-time, regularly enrolled Stony Brook University undergraduate students, have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade-point average, and have earned a minimum of 12 credit hours. Credit hours must be accrued during matriculation at a college campus. Advance placement credits or other credit acquired prior to high school graduation cannot be included. Transfer students are eligible provided proper verification from previous college or university attended is presented to the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life indicating the completion of at least 12 credits with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

2. All recruitment activities must take place on Stony Brook University's campus with prior approval from the Department of Student Engagement and Activities.

3. All new member education processes and activities can begin when:
   - All prospective members have submitted a Membership Acceptance, Grade Release, Emergency Contact Form, and a New Member Statement of Understanding.
   - All potential new members have attended all required programming.
   - New Member Educator has attended the New Member Educator Meeting.
   - A roster of prospective members and a new member orientation plan has been submitted.
   - The chapter has received written notification of approval from the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life.

4. Department of Student Engagement and Activities will semesterly determine the earliest date that bids can be issued and the date by which all new member education activities must be completed. This will be no longer than a six week period.

5. Organized new member education activities may begin after 10:00am and must end by 11:00pm, Sunday through Thursday, and may begin after 10:00am and must end by 12:00am on Friday and Saturday.

6. All new member education activities are restricted to the Stony Brook University campus unless written approval is received by the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life. New member activities may NOT take place in personal residence hall rooms. UGC spaces are permitted if properly reserved.

7. All new member education activities must be approved by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and may only take place in approved campus spaces. New member education activities may not take place in residence halls unless written permission has been obtained.

8. New member education activities shall not interfere with classes, academic activities or requirements, and/or a prospective member’s work schedules. Those prospective members whose class and work schedules conflict with
scheduled new member education activities must be excused from those activities and/or those activities must be rescheduled for such a time when they do not interfere with a prospective member’s work and/or class schedule.

9. Alcohol or drugs cannot, in any way, be a part of the recruitment or new member education process.

10. Prospective members must be informed of financial and other obligations of membership prior to beginning the new member orientation process.

11. Prospective members may withdraw from the new member education process at any time without fear of harassment or ridicule.

12. Organizations must supply the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life with the name of any potential new member that has withdrawn from the process within 24 hours of their withdrawal.

13. Students may only join one fraternity or sorority at a time.

14. The practice of influencing and/or harassing prospective members from a fraternity or sorority, by a member of another fraternity or sorority, commonly referred to as cross-intake, is prohibited.

15. The practice of conducting new member education processes for individuals who are not registered students at Stony Brook University, commonly known as “cross-campus intake”, is prohibited.

16. Requests for exceptions to the outlined new member education process (i.e. off campus activities, etc.) shall be made in writing to the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life. The Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, or their designee, will initiate a meeting with the organization president and new member educator to determine if an exception will be granted and will document in writing any accommodations made for that particular process. Special requests need to be made for each new member orientation process and organization plans and accommodations made will only be valid in the semester they are approved. Exceptions must be requested at least 2 weeks in advance.

HAZING

Hazing and/or harassment of prospective members and members is strictly prohibited as stipulated by New York State Law and the Stony Brook University Code of Student Responsibility. Fraternities and sororities are expected to create new member education / intake programs that promote scholarship, aid career goals, develop leadership, build awareness of chapter history and the fraternity and sorority community, develop chapter unity, and develop problem solving abilities.

Hazing may be perpetrated by individual(s) against individual(s), individual against group, group against individual, or group against group.

Hazing conduct may result in charges under the rules for “Maintenance of Public Order” (Education Law, Section 6450), withdrawal of chapter recognition as described in this document, campus judicial charges against individual students, and/or the arrest of individuals.

**New York State Law (as of 4/24/2010)**

*Section 120.16: Hazing in the first degree*

A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person’s initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he/she intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes injury.

_Hazing in the first degree is a Class A Misdemeanor._

*Section 120.17: Hazing in the second degree*

A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person’s initiation or affiliation with any organization, he/she intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person.

_Hazing in the second degree is a violation._

*Stony Brook University Student Conduct Code Section III.A.1.g - Hazing*

In connection with an affiliation to any organization, group, team, or sports club: no student shall (i) endanger the mental, physical, or emotional health of a person, intentionally or recklessly, by commission or omission, regardless of whether the other person has consented to the activity; (ii) participate in activities on or off University property,
involving the forced or expected consumption of alcohol, drugs or other substances, or damage, destroy, tamper with, or remove public or private property.

**Financial Management & Integrity**

Student groups are expected to abide by University policies and procedures and exercise integrity for their own financial, legal, and contractual obligations. Stony Brook University does not oversee any of the financial operations of recognized fraternities and sororities. They are independent corporations. We assume no financial control or responsibility.

As is the case with any University affiliated organizations, chapters are expected to provide mechanisms for financial accountability and follow SUNY Board of Trustee guidelines. To this end, fraternities and sororities expecting to engage in any kind of monetary transactions (including but not limited to programming and fundraising) are required to establish a University approved financial account. Accounts will be limited to Faculty Student Association Trust and Agency accounts, and accounts must be available for periodic review by appropriate University officials and provide a mechanism for verification of financial transactions.

**Risk Management**

The Stony Brook University Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life endorses the Fraternal Information and Programming Group’s Risk Management Policy. This policy, in conjunction with the policies set forth by the Stony Brook University Club and Organization Manual, should be used as a resource when planning and promoting all events. The FIPG policy can be found at www.FIPG.org.

**Changes in University Policy**

Whenever reasonably possible, the University will make every attempt to notify the appropriate fraternity and sorority governing council leaders of potential changes to the policies contained within this Statement in order to encourage their input. The University does, however, reserve the right to make any changes to this Statement and the policies within it whenever the University deems doing so is necessary and in the best interest of the student body.

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