

Department of Greek Student Engagement & Development

Western Carolina University

Fraternity/Sorority Expansion and Re-establishment Policy

Updated August 11, 2020

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The following document includes the expansion and re-establishment guidelines and procedures for all social fraternities and sororities at Western Carolina University.

Purpose

Western Carolina University is committed to our Fraternity and Sorority Life Community and believes in the importance of student growth and involvement. The Department of Greek Student Engagement & Development is committed to the holistic development and success of all students, the cultivation of inclusive spaces and communities, and the fostering of meaningful relationships and lifelong learning.

Western Carolina University has been a home for Fraternity and Sorority Life since 1952. Since then, more than 27 organizations have called this campus home and we have more than 700 students currently thriving in the brotherhoods and sisterhoods these organizations offer. Our community focuses on the following benchmark areas: engagement, friendship, leadership, risk management, scholarship, and service. The University is committed to helping our member organizations grow, lead, and succeed on our campus.

When it is determined that a new organization is needed to strengthen our fraternity and sorority life community, the procedures outlined below will be followed. The purpose of the Expansion and Re-establishment Policy is to ensure expansion and re-establishment of fraternities and sororities are done carefully with a well-developed plan that aligns with the standards and mission of Western Carolina University. A carefully planned and supportive process will ensure that our students have maximum opportunity for a rewarding experience and the relationship between campus and the respective national organizations are maintained.

ARTICLE I: POLICIES AND DEFINITIONS

Social fraternities and sororities (including women's fraternities) are Title IX protected, single-sex organizations whose primary purpose is personal development. These organizations are not limited to any particular field of study, profession, or academic discipline. Members of these organizations are not permitted to hold membership in other social fraternities or sororities. Only enrolled students at Western Carolina University can maintain and hold membership in our recognized organizations.

1.1 University Recognition

Recognizing the value of student organizations, Western Carolina University affords recognized student groups many benefits beyond those programs and services mentioned previously. Below is a brief listing of those benefits:

- a. Use of the name Western Carolina University

- b. Use of campus facilities and support services for meeting and approved activities
- c. Funds for educational activities from Student Government Association
- d. Permission to enter solicitation and fundraising activities in accordance with university policies
- e. Access to on-campus University mail services through the WCU mail system
- f. Participation in the activities of state and/or national organizations, if such affiliation is established, or any other activities which are not in violation of university policy
- g. Ability to develop a web site using university resources
- h. Inclusion in university publications and web site
- i. Inclusion on distribution list for weekly electronic newsletter

1.2 University Policy and Requirements

Along with the benefits of university recognition, fraternities and sororities are held to a high standard reflective of the quality of educational experience that Western seeks for its students. The following policies and procedures must be followed to maintain recognition and good standing with the University:

- a. Register the organization annually with the Department of Campus Activities.
- b. Abide by all other universities codes and policies.
- c. Follow all rules regarding the recruitment/pledging of new members.
- d. Complete the yearly Registration and Recognition report.

1.3 Definitions and Terms

- a. Expansion – Expansion involves inviting inter/national social fraternities and sororities to establish chartered chapters on the campus of Western Carolina University.
- b. Extensions – Extension is a process of adding one of the 26 organizations of the National Panhellenic Conference to campus. This is a process which is defined, dictated, and managed through the NPC Manual of Information (MOI) – (National Panhellenic Conference, Manual of Information, Extension, p. 144 – 154 and the College Panhellenic Council.)
- c. Intake – Intake is the process by which the nine associated organizations of the National Panhellenic Council, Inc. establish membership on campus. Multicultural organizations such as National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations and other Multicultural Greek Council also utilize an Intake process for establishing chapters on college campuses.
- d. Re-establishment – Re-establishment involves re-establishing a relationship with past chartered organizations through invitation and support of respective councils. This includes organizations whose recognition was previously suspended or revoked by the University through the formal organizational Code of Student Conduct process, previously sanctioned judicial procedures, or their inter/national organization.

ARTICLE II: JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY

Western Carolina University and the Office of Greek Student Engagement & Development reserve the rights to approve or deny any fraternity or sorority seeking registration and recognition with the University that does not adhere to this policy or any other guidelines or expectations. The University and the Office of Greek Student Engagement & Development also reserve the right to limit expansion or re-establishment efforts to one process per calendar year.

2.1 Jurisdiction of Governing Councils

- a. For Extension, the campus Panhellenic Council will manage the exploratory process and Extension Committee with the assistance of the Office of Greek Student Engagement & Development. (Manual of Information, Unanimous Agreements, Section V). The campus Panhellenic Council will convene and discuss the possibility of extension through an Exploratory Committee. The committee is responsible for providing a written report of findings to the Panhellenic Body and to the Office of Greek Student Engagement and Development for approval.
- b. The campus Interfraternity Council will maintain a Fraternity Expansion Committee that will serve as a recommending body to the Office of Greek Student Engagement & Development. This committee will determine if it is an appropriate time for expansion, will determine all timelines for reviewing expansion proposals, and will provide the Director of Greek Student Engagement & Development with any recommendations to invite organizations to charter or re-establish.
- c. The NPHC Executive Board will review potential establishment or re-establishment by any Divine Nine organizations currently not represented on campus. They will provide the Office of Greek Student Engagement & Development with a written report and proposal and will be considered as a recommending body.
- d. For culturally based organizations and until there is a culturally based council, the Office of Greek Student Engagement will work with any potential new organizations and their establishment on campus. Once the governing council is working, the Office will look for a recommendation concerning the establishment of a new organization on campus.

ARTICLE III: PROCEDURE FOR NEW ORGANIZATIONS

For an IFC inter/national social fraternity to explore official recognition on the campus of Western Carolina University, the following procedures will be followed as outlined below:

3.1 All Inter/national organizations seeking recognition must complete and submit a letter of intent to the Office of Greek Student Engagement & Development. The letter cannot be submitted by a student or alumni on behalf of the Inter/national organization. This letter must include information about the national values and principles, inter/national organization's rationale of how it will be able to differentiate itself from current chapters on campus, and how they can help strengthen the fraternity and sorority community at Western Carolina University. The letter should also outline goals, priorities, and timelines for establishing a new chapter, and the intentions of the inter/national office to offer continued support to an established chapter and campus. We encourage all organizations wishing to be considered to submit a complete packet of petition with their letter.

Upon receiving any letters of intent or formal documentation, the Office of Greek Student Engagement & Development will respond in writing to confirm receipt and notify the interested inter/national organization of a review timeline. A letter of intent must be received by July 1st to be considered for the following academic calendar.

3.2 After reviewing any letters of intent, the Director of Greek Student Engagement & Development will initiate a discussion and review all submitted information with the IFC Expansion Committee. Reviews will occur annually in January and August or at a time otherwise deemed necessary or appropriate to consider the growth of the fraternity and sorority community. As part of the review, the committee will

be responsible for evaluating the need, timing, and feasibility of allowing an additional fraternity or sorority to expand or recolonize. The current national trends and general health of the community at Western Carolina University will set the tone for the review.

3.3 A formal presentation may be requested as part of the evaluation and review process. If a presentation is requested, the inter/nation organization would be responsible for all costs associated with travel to the campus of Western Carolina University. To formally present to the community does not guarantee approval. The expectations of the presentation will be established by the respective council and the Office of Greek Student Engagement & Development and will be provided in formal notification to the inter/national organization two weeks prior to expected visit.

3.4 The respective councils or their designees will determine if they wish to extend an invitation or not to an inter/national organization via a majority council vote after all procedural steps and reviews have concluded. A formal recommendation must be submitted to the Greek Student Engagement & Development office within five business days of the vote and must include all notes and reports collected during the review.

3.5 Final decision regarding approval of expansion or re-establishment lies with the University. The inter/national organization will be notified via writing about the decision. If approved, notification will include designated timeline of colonization and requirements.

For NPC organizations, all steps in the Manual of Information will be followed when exploring expansion.

For NPHC and CBFO organizations, the conversation will involve the respective council, if there is one, and the Office of Greek Student Engagement and Development. If there isn't a council, the conversation will involve the Office Greek Student Engagement and Development, the students, and the potential organization. All efforts will be made to not create a barrier to one of these chapters joining our campus community.

ARTICLE IV: PETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT FOR IFC AND NPC ORGANIZATIONS

4.1 In addition to the process outlined in section 3.1 of the policy, the organization wishing to re-establish at Western Carolina University must provide the following information as part of their petition application:

- a. History of the organization on campus
- b. How the inter/national office will review previous members wishing to participate with the organization either as undergraduate active members or Alumni Advisors

4.2 Upon receipt of the organization's petition to re-establish, the Director of Greek Student Engagement & Development, or designee, will review the organization's past conduct history to determine if the organization is eligible. To petition, the organization must clearly have met all sanction(s) requirements as outlined in their suspension letter. The return of the organization is not automatic. The Director or designee may deny an application for re-establishment if the organization's misconduct during suspension would have warranted additional disciplinary action. If the organization has failed to satisfy any sanction that was imposed prior to application for re-establishment, the Director, or designee, may deny the organization's petition. Consequently, the Director will set a date when another application for re-establishment may be considered.

ARTICLE V: ESTABLISHMENT AND RE-ESTABLISHMENT REQUIREMENTS

Any inter/national organization that has been approved to start a chapter at Western Carolina University will follow the University Student Organization Policy and Guidelines Manual for establishment. Once established, the new chapter will have all rights and privileges associated with student organization recognition. The new chapter will be a dues-paying member of their respective council and have voting and participation privileges.

5.1 The inter/national office will provide Greek Student Engagement & Development the following information prior to arrival on campus:

- a. Establishment timeline
- b. Information about long-term chapter support and advising plan
- c. New chapter standards for chapter installation, Inter/national organization standards and expectations for active chapter
- d. Membership development program, including new member development.
- e. Risk management/risk reduction/crisis management programs, policies & procedures
- f. Academic standards and academic support programs
- g. Financial requirements associated with membership

5.2 The new chapter will be considered on probationary status for one year and will need to complete the following:

- a. Maintain good standing with Greek Student Engagement & Development office, the respective council, and the University
- b. Complete all minimum recognition expectations as outlined by Western Carolina University's Department of Campus Activities
- c. Meet the new chapter standards for chapter installation as provided by the inter/national office

5.3 If a new chapter fails to complete the above requirements during their probationary term, the University will either extend the probationary period or revoke recognition. If recognition is revoked, the inter/national organization will be ineligible to petition until five years have passed from the date of lost recognition.

5.4 Unsuccessful petitions may be resubmitted one calendar year following the initial submission.