

POLICY STATEMENT: Organizational Growth

POLICY NUMBER: 004

EFFECTIVE DATE: August, 1, 2011

Social fraternities and sororities shall exist at the Florida Atlantic University as registered student organizations and shall be classified as social fraternities and sororities, governed by policies established by the Division of Student Affairs and administered through the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership and/or the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. This policy shall govern the growth of inter/national social fraternities or sororities as defined below.

The Fraternity & Sorority Life governance structure established by Florida Atlantic University includes student input and participation. Student input and participation is accomplished through authority delegated by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to designated undergraduate governing councils. The undergraduate Greek governing councils at Florida Atlantic University are: Interfraternity Council (IFC), College Panhellenic Association (CPA), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and Multicultural Greek Council (MGC).

Social fraternities and sororities must abide by applicable university policies, regulations, and procedures governing student organizations, as well as policies, guidelines, and procedures established by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the undergraduate governing councils.

A new social fraternity or sorority seeking registration at Florida Atlantic University must complete the appropriate process as outlined in this document. No social fraternity or sorority shall be registered at Florida Atlantic University without following the processes listed in this document and without securing affiliation into an undergraduate governing council.

Inter/national social fraternities and sororities may establish recognized chapters at the Florida Atlantic University through two different processes:

1. **Expansion:** The inter/national organization and its headquarters staff submit information directly to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life for the purposes of expansion. This process would be led by headquarters staff and/or the volunteer officers of the organization, and would

involve an on-campus presence from headquarters staff and/or volunteer officers to execute the recruitment of interested students and for creating the initial foundation for the organization at Florida Atlantic University.

2. **Petitioning:** The interest in starting a new chapter of an inter/national organization is initiated by current students or local alumni/ae members of the inter/national organization. This process would be ultimately initiated and led by FAU students and the process of indentifying interested students would be driven by the students on campus. In this scenario, petitioning groups must meet minimum standards, as defined in this document, prior to submitting information to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, for consideration from the appropriate undergraduate governing council.

Please note that Florida Atlantic University reserves the right, at any time and at its sole discretion, to alter, amend, change, modify, delete, revise, or restate the terms of this policy and may do so without providing advance notice to any existing council or organization, any applying organization, or any other council or organizations.

SECTION I: DEFINITION OF AN INTER/NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The definition of an inter/national organization at Florida Atlantic University refers to social fraternities and sororities who meet the following terms:

- a. Has an inter/national headquarters, with paid staff
- b. Has non-profit status with the IRS
- c. Has a Board of Directors and governance papers
- d. Has general insurance liability coverage of \$100,000 per occurrence with a \$200,000 general aggregate
- e. Has regional and national meetings and conventions
- f. If the organization is single-sex, it must provide and verify its Title XI exemption

SECTION II: REQUESTED INFORMATION

1. In both the expansion and petitioning process, the following minimum information will need to be provided, in writing, by the applying organization:
 - a. Written request and support for a chapter provided by the inter/national organization
 - b. Written documentation that confirms that the fraternity or sorority meets the definition of an inter/national organization, as defined in this document
 - c. Plan for alumni/advisor support
 - d. Colony intake/recruitment plan
 - e. Colony support
 - f. Colonization timeline
 - g. Long-term chapter support
 - h. Colony standards for chapter installation
 - i. Inter/national organization standards and expectations for active chapters
 - j. Membership development program, including new member development

- k. Risk management/risk reduction/crisis management programs, policies & procedures
 - l. Leadership development opportunities offered through the Inter/National organization
 - m. Academic standards and academic support programs
 - n. Financial requirements associated with membership
 - o. Demonstrated interest/knowledge of Florida Atlantic University and the FAU fraternity & sorority community
 - p. Any additional information requested by the Florida Atlantic University
2. Additional information, outlined in this document, will be requested of petitioning groups.
 3. Interested inter/national social fraternities or sororities shall provide all the information and material listed above in order to be considered. Failure to provide said information shall exclude an organization from consideration for colonization, under the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

SECTION III: EXTERNAL POLICY GOVERNANCE

Any applying organization, in either the expansion or petitioning process, must follow this policy in conjunction with the guidelines & standards set forth by inter/national organizations to which they are members including, but not limited to:

- a. National Panhellenic Conference (NPC)
- b. North American Fraternity Conference (NIC)
- c. National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)
- d. National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO)
- e. National Multicultural Governing Council (NMGC)
- f. National Asian Pacific American Panhellenic Association (NAPA)

SECTION IV: PROCESS FOR EXPANSION

1. Every academic year, each governing council shall establish a committee to deal with all matters pertaining to expansion processes within their particular council. A council-specific committee will convene to discuss expansion for at least one of the following reasons:
 - a. The need for a new social fraternity or sorority is recognized by the community or Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life staff.
 - b. An inter/national organization contacts the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life wanting to start a fraternity or sorority.
2. This committee will then provide recommendations to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life regarding the need for expansion within their respective council.
3. If the need for expansion is expressed and then affirmed by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, an expansion submission deadline will be established by the appropriate Council.

4. After the expansion submission deadline, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will review all packets submitted and will then forward expansion packets to the appropriate council expansion committee for review.
5. Each council-specific expansion committee will review packets and move forward with one of the following options (based on council specific governance policies):
 - a. Decide a predetermined number of interested inter/national fraternities or sororities to make presentations on-campus, that would then lead to a decision on inter/national fraternities or sororities to colonize at Florida Atlantic University, under the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
 - b. Decide a predetermined number of interested inter/national fraternities or sororities to colonize at Florida Atlantic University, under the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, not to exceed one (1) organization, per council, per academic year.
 - c. Decide that no interested inter/national fraternities or sororities meet the criteria to move forward with the process.
6. Each council-specific expansion committee will then recommend a course of action to their undergraduate governing Council for an official vote, as per the council's constitution & bylaws.
7. Once an official vote is reached, the undergraduate governing Council must provide their decision in writing to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, who will then affirm or overrule the decision and communicate it to all applicant inter/national organizations. This process is further defined in Section VII of this policy.

SECTION V: PROCESS FOR PETITIONING

1. Creating an interest group is unique course in starting social fraternities and sororities. In most instances of expansion in a fraternity & sorority community, representatives from the inter/national organizations come to campus and seek out students to become members of their organization. When starting an "interest group", the students take the initiative to find an inter/national organization that they would like to join and then they must meet the following standards toward becoming an active student organization within the FAU fraternity & sorority community.
 - a. Interest groups must first secure written support from the inter/national organization that they are looking to affiliate to ensure that they are interested in establishing a fraternity/sorority at Florida Atlantic University. They must also secure the written policies that outline the process for interest groups to form within the inter/national organization.

- b. Once the documentation referenced above is secured, the interest group should schedule a meeting with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to provide and discuss the documentation.
- c. Following this initial meeting, the “interest group” may begin work to meet the standards outlined by the inter/national organization and by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. The standards outlined by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life are:
 - i. Establishment of a group of 15 students, in good standing at Florida Atlantic University and as defined by the inter/national organization, who have committed to starting this organization.
 - ii. Completion of the policies, governing a petitioning process, as outlined by the inter/national organization to which they are attempting to affiliate with.
- d. In order to move forward in this process, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life must receive a formal letter from the inter/national organization confirming that all the standards have been met and that the interest group should be considered for colonization on campus.
- e. Upon receipt of that letter, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will require that the interest group, in conjunction with the inter/national organization, create and submit a packet of information to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, as outlined in **SECTION II: Number 1** of this document.
- f. Upon receipt of this packet, the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will schedule a meeting with the interest group and the appropriate undergraduate governing council to request formal acceptance to affiliate into the council as a colony.
 - i. If the standards outlined by the inter/national organization and by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life have all been met by the interest group, then the governing council may not deny affiliation into the council.
 - ii. Once affiliation has been granted, the interest group/colony will receive an official notice of University approval from the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and could then register as a student organization at Florida Atlantic University.

SECTION VI: PROCESS FOR FULL UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION

1. University recognition is granted through the Office of Student Involvement & Leadership’s student organization registration process.
2. A formally constituted colony or chapter at the Florida Atlantic University will receive the following:
 - a. Rights, privileges, and obligations granted to registered student organizations in accordance to University Regulation 4.006

- b. Rights and privileges of social fraternities and sororities under the umbrella of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, as a department within the Division of Student Affairs.
3. At the end of 548 days (1.5 years) from the date of University approval for colonization, a group shall lose their status and recognition as a colony at the Florida Atlantic University, under the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, if they fail to:
 - a. Be a fully chartered chapter by its national organization
 - b. Be a chapter in good standing by its national organization
 - c. Meet the requirements associated with being a registered student organization at Florida Atlantic University
2. Any group, approved through the expansion or petitioning process, who is unable to meet the standards described herein, will be unable to recolonize at Florida Atlantic University, under the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, until a period of 7 years has passed from the date of the organization's loss of status and recognition.

SECTION VII: MISCELLANEOUS POLICY STATEMENTS

1. The Senior Vice President of Student Affairs, or his/her designee, reserves the right to place a moratorium on expansion or petitioning groups under the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
2. Expansion will be limited to one (1) organization, per council, each academic year. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
3. There is no limit to the amount of organizations, per council, that can be in the petitioning process.
4. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, in conjunction with the appropriate undergraduate governing council, reserves the right to transfer an organization from the expansion process to a petitioning process should the inter/national organization not provide appropriate levels of support through the expansion process.
5. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life reserves the right to overrule and/or alter any decision made by an undergraduate governing council if it determines that such decision is inconsistent with this policy and/or the mission, purposes, order, academic atmosphere, operations, processes and/or functions of Florida Atlantic University.
 - a. Decisions made by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to overrule and/or alter any decision made by an undergraduate governing council may be appealed in writing by such council within ten (10) academic days after the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life has notified the undergraduate governing council that its decision has been overruled and/or altered. Appeals must be submitted to the Associate Vice President & Dean of Students in writing for consideration.

- b. After considering the appeal, the Associate Vice President & Dean of Students, or designee, shall provide written notice of his or her decision to the undergraduate governing council within a reasonable time frame.
5. This policy shall be subject to, and incorporated by reference into, University Regulations 4.007 (Student Code of Conduct) and 4.006 (Student Government and Student Organization) and Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life policies. All other University policies, regulations, and procedures continue to apply.