

# The University of Texas at Dallas Fraternity & Sorority Life Expansion Policies & Procedures

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National single-sex general fraternities and sororities may establish recognized chapters at the University of Texas at Dallas only through a formal invitation extended by the University. The invitation is contingent upon petitioners meeting the criteria outlined in this document. The University of Texas at Dallas reserves the right, at any time and at its sole discretion, to alter, amend, change, modify, delete, revise or restate the terms of this expansion process and may do so without providing advance notice to any then existing council or organization, any applying organization, or any other council or organizations.

The following statement establishes the guidelines and procedures for the colonization of national fraternities/sororities at the University of Texas at Dallas. This policy is divided into five sections:

- Section I defines what the University considers a “national” fraternity or sorority.
- Section II outlines the information that a national fraternity or sorority, group of UT Dallas students, or Greek Council representatives must submit to request colony status.
- Section III describes the procedure for colonization at UT Dallas.
- Section IV outlines accountability measures for colonies and organizations.
- Section V outlines benefits afforded a colony and chapter at the University of Texas at Dallas.
- Section VI outlines the UT Dallas Re-establishment policy

## **Section I**

- A. The definition of a “National” fraternity or sorority is deemed in the following terms: The organization has a headquarters or office space and professional staff; has non-profit status with the IRS, has a Board of Directors and governance papers; has proof of organizational (non-profit) liability insurance, and has regional and national meetings or conventions. The interpretation of these points can be amended & decided upon by the Associate VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students.

## **Section II**

- A. Any national fraternity or sorority, group of UT Dallas students representing a national fraternity or sorority (*pending confirmation*), or Greek council representatives wishing to colonize at the University of Texas at Dallas should file a letter/email of intent with the Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life within the first month of an academic term. The Director shall notify the Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students and the Expansion Committee (*See Appendix I*), which would coordinate the expansion request of that national organization along with the governing student council. The letter of intent shall be considered a request to colonize at UT Dallas. Notices of intent to expand at UT Dallas will only be accepted during the first month of the Fall and Spring academic term (Aug-Sep. & Jan-Feb.)
- B. The national fraternity or sorority wishing to colonize must follow the expansion or extension guidelines for the University as well as one of the four governing councils (College Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, and National Pan-Hellenic Council.)

1. National Pan-Hellenic Council is the campus governing body of those fraternities and sororities who are members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.
2. Interfraternity Council is the campus governing body of those fraternities who are members of the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) or agree to meet the IFC Standards of Membership, which are rooted in the NIC Standards.
3. College Panhellenic Council is the campus governing body of women's organizations that have membership in the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) and follow the NPC method for extension.
4. Multicultural Greek Council is the campus governing body of those fraternities and sororities whose national offices do not belong to those national associations or councils listed above; are members of the National Asian Pacific Islander American Panhellenic Association (NAPA), the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO), and The National Multicultural Greek Council (NMGC); have membership in another national fraternal association that is not currently listed or have a vested cultural and fraternal heritage.

C. National Fraternity/Sorority Offices shall provide the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and all relevant University officials with the following information:

1. Proof of "National" Fraternity/Sorority status. *See Section I*
2. Number of alumni in the area (50-mile radius of Richardson, TX 75080).
3. Letter of confirmation of support for a chapter by area alumni/Alumni Association.
4. Written request and support for a chapter by the national office.
5. Number of collegiate chapter's nation-wide.
6. Number of chapters in the State of Texas.
7. Average chapter size nation-wide.
8. National risk management and alcohol policies.
9. Copy of new member education programs.
10. Information about any/all leadership development programs.
11. List of other institutions where organization recently colonized within the last five years.
12. List of other institutions where the organization received any disciplinary sanctions within the last five years and the nature of the infraction(s).
13. List of other institutions where the organization has any pending disciplinary sanction(s) or investigation(s).
14. List all lawsuits filed against the organization within the last five years and the status of these cases. Agree to supply additional information regarding any such lawsuit, if requested by the University of Texas at Dallas.
15. Submit a plan of action or timeline for colonization. This will include support for the organization from the Organization's National Headquarters; length of time national/regional staff will be on hand to colonize the chapter and the degree of support/resources and plan of consultations and supervision for establishing a colony.
16. Proof of the organization's' insurance coverage (A Certificate of Insurance is acceptable)
17. Financial support available to the colony from the national fraternity and alumni, to include a statement concerning how, and if, the national fraternity will handle any outstanding liabilities or other legal responsibilities incurred by the colony, in the event they are not successful in their attempt to colonize.

18. A copy of the national constitution and by-laws, as well as all other rules, regulations, policies, etc. pertaining to colonies.
  19. Place of residence of the colony members, pledges and national/regional representatives (if applicable – fraternity/sorority housing is not required.)
  20. Any additional information requested by the University of Texas at Dallas.
- D. The national/regional office must submit a statement that shows it will agree to the following items:
1. Statement(s) from a local alumnus, or alumni, willing to serve as colony advisor or advisors.
  2. Agree to have a faculty/staff advisor (employed faculty or staff member at the University of Texas at Dallas)
  3. Headquarters staff will meet with Fraternity & Sorority Life Staff prior to colonization.
  4. Agree to abide by all requirements of the Fraternity and Sorority Life, including participation in the chapter standards program.
  5. Agree that the chapter will maintain published chapter minimums for academic standards.
  6. Be free of organizational disciplinary sanctions (if re-colonizing)
  7. Agree to abide by all requirement of student organizations by the Student Organizations Center
  8. Provide a schedule of colony activities for the first year of the colonization once the invitation to expand at UT Dallas has been extended.
  9. The organization must agree, in writing, to comply with all policies, codes, procedures, statements and all accompanying rules of the University of Texas at Dallas and the laws of the State of Texas that currently exist or may exist in the future.

### **Section III**

- A. Interested inter/national fraternities and sororities shall provide all the information and materials listed in Section II items C and D; failure to provide said information shall exclude such organization from consideration for colonization. National Fraternities/Sororities are encouraged to submit information only during the first month of each academic term (See UT Dallas Academic Calendar for term start dates). After submission of the listed information, the UT Dallas Expansion Committee (*Appendix 1*) will be convened to review the submitted material.
- B. The Expansion Committee will then vote (via a simple majority) to present the proposal for expansion to the corresponding governing Fraternity/Sorority Council. Following a vote in favor, a summary report will be created and presented to the respective governing council by members of the Expansion Committee highlighting the reasons for expansion and the organization's required information. After review, the governing council will then be asked to hold a vote (2/3rds needed to pass unless stated otherwise in council governing doctrine) on their interest in learning more about the organization via an in-person presentation from professional representatives from the National Organization (*See Appendix II for presentation details*).
- C. After the presentation(s) the Expansion Committee shall meet and discuss the merits of those organization(s) applying for colonization. The committee shall then submit a recommendation for colonization. At that time, the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life shall review the recommendation along with all submitted material from applying organizations and provide his/her recommendation to the Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. The Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students shall make a final determination of which organization(s) shall be extended an

invitation to colonize at UT Dallas. Once the Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students has made his/her colonization decision, the University shall notify the applying organization.

#### **Section IV**

- A. At the end of two years from the date of University approval for colonization, any organization, which fails to be (i) a fully chartered chapter by its national organization; (ii) a chapter in good standing by its national organization; or (iii) has not been granted membership in their respective council shall lose their status and recognition as a colony at the University of Texas at Dallas. Each council, according to its own governing documents will deliberate exceptions to this policy on a case by case basis.
- B. Any circumvention of this or any additional processes outlined in this policy by the organization or student representatives immediately nullifies that organizations' expansion progression with UT Dallas. This includes but is not limited to: affiliating with neighboring universities and attempting to register at UT Dallas, holding initiation ceremonies prior to approval for colonization, registering as a UT Dallas student organization while operating/advertising the organization as a fraternity/sorority without appropriate consent or communication with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

#### **Section V**

- A. A formally constituted Greek Letter fraternity or sorority at the University of Texas at Dallas will have:
  - 1. All privileges of a Student Organization as defined by the Student Organization Manual.
  - 2. Access to the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office Staff and other University personnel to assist the chapter with its growth, development, and compliance with these guidelines and standards.
  - 3. Support and guidance from the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office through participation in the advising of the respective Greek Councils, meeting with chapter leadership and attending chapter and council events.
  - 4. Timely access to information regarding the scholastic performance of the Chapter's members.
  - 5. Access to information concerning the academic performance of potential new members who may participate in the recruitment process.
  - 6. Assistance from the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office in identifying a potential Faculty Advisor and members of the University's faculty to assist the Chapter with its academic programs and initiatives.
  - 7. Communication from Fraternity & Sorority Life Office regarding the chapter's compliance with these guidelines and standards and the chapter's efforts in furthering the quality of the undergraduate experience. This communication shall also be disseminated to the chapter leadership, Chapter Advisors, and the Inter/National Organization.
  - 8. Access to new undergraduate students through information and participation in the new student orientation program.
  - 9. Assistance and support in following the individual chapter's risk management policies as well as the University's expectations and requirements.
  - 10. Support and guidance in planning and implementing a New Member Education Program.
  - 11. On-going advising and educational programs/resources on topics of new member education, Fraternity & Sorority Life values, hazing, recruitment, risk management, program planning, bystander intervention and other appropriate topics.

## Section VI

### Fraternity/Sorority Re-establishment Guidelines

A fraternity or sorority that wishes to re-establish a chapter at The University of Texas at Dallas may be considered for return by demonstrating its ability to satisfy and comply with the following guidelines. Requests for returns must be made to the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs/ Dean of Students via the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office. These guidelines can only be entertained after a group has served the duration of any suspension and met all requirements stipulated by the Office of Community Standards and Conduct. Any changes/adaptations of these guidelines can be requested to the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs/ Dean of Students via the Fraternity & Sorority Life Office.

1. The Four Pillars of the Fraternity & Sorority Life office (Leadership, Scholarship, Brotherhood/Sisterhood/Service) must be an essential part of the planning that will go into any program for returning organizations. The alumni/national volunteers in charge of the return must give evidence of their understanding of the four Pillars, and indicate how the pillars will be incorporated into the organization's planning, particularly during the first two years.
2. The National Organization will be expected to conduct/assist in recruitment and the selection of new members for the first year, as per their national standards or procedures. In succeeding years, approved alumni from the national organization will be expected to participate in the recruitment process.
3. The National Organization must provide a detailed member orientation program for all new chapter members and alumni. This program should be separate from the nationally recognized new member education program. This member orientation program should address such issues as the meaning of membership in the organization, member standards for the recolonized chapter, and individual accountability measures for member conduct.
4. The National Organization will highlight a grouping of alumni, located within reasonable (<50miles) proximity to UT Dallas. The National Organization must be identify the aforementioned alumni as fit for advisement on the day-to-day activities of the chapter, particularly during the first 18 months of its return. The specific duties and responsibilities of these alumni must be identified and presented to the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students and Fraternity and Sorority Life Office. Additionally, regular meetings with UT Dallas Fraternity and Sorority Life staff outlining chapter progression will be required.
5. If the suspension of the organization was due to a violation of UT Dallas Code of Conduct policies/procedures, the organization must present a plan/program indicating how the organization will attempt to ensure that violations of that nature will not happen again. The program should also include resources for the UT Dallas chapter in regards to finances, chapter operations, event management, etc. Plans should also be shared with chapter membership at member orientation (see point 3 for more information)
6. Previous members of a suspended or inactive chapter should not be permitted to affiliate with a reestablished chapter. While the decision as to the status of membership belongs to the national organization, exceptions to this general prohibition are not encouraged and must be formally presented to Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs/ Dean of Students for approval.

## Appendix I

### Expansion Committee Organization

The Expansion Committee shall deal with all matters about the expansion of UT Dallas' Greek community or the replacement of any group that is no longer active. The expansion committee will convene to discuss the expansion for at least one of the following reasons:

1. The need for a new chapter is recognized by an expansion committee member, Fraternity and Sorority Life staff, or a collection of FSL community members
2. An individual or group of students contacts an expansion committee member or Fraternity and Sorority Life wanting to start a fraternity or sorority
3. An (inter)national fraternity or sorority contacts an expansion committee or Fraternity and Sorority Life wanting to start a fraternity or sorority.
4. It is determined by the expansion committee after the stated timeframe for receiving expansion related inquiries. The expansion committee will determine the need for expansion for different councils once a semester. Individual council's expansion teams can provide recommendations to Fraternity and Sorority Life regarding the necessity of expansion for their respective council.
5. The Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, having final determination on expansion rate and decisions, calls for the committee to convene.

### Expansion Committee

The Expansion Committee shall be comprised of the following (11) individuals

1. Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life (Chair)
2. Student Organization Center staff member (1)
3. Two UT Dallas staff members appointed by Dean of students (2)
4. The Student Government President (or designee) (1)
5. One representative from Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), College Panhellenic Council (CPC), and National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). (4)
6. Student-At-Large member of Greek Community (1)
7. Alumni/Greek Chapter Advisor (1)
8. Associate VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students (ex-officio)

## Appendix II

### Formal Presentation

The Expansion presentation gives an interested National Fraternity/Sorority the opportunity to display the culture, standards, and characteristics that would show the relevance of that organization to the UT Dallas community. Professional staff or prominent alumni are required to coordinate all aspects of the presentation for the UT Dallas community with the Fraternity and Sorority Life Office. The presentation should be limited to 90 minutes including time for questions from gathered audience.

A. The formal presentation should outline the following:

1. Organization's mission, purpose, and desire for colonization
2. How the values of organization correlate with those of UT Dallas and the Fraternity and Sorority Life Mission
3. Colonization timeline that highlights colony activities
4. Cost, involvement and co-curricular expectations for members
5. Relationship that can be built within the governing council, The University, and surrounding communities

*This policy may be amended, altered or modified by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life at any time if changes are in consultation with the UT Dallas Dean of Students*

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