

Clemson University Statement of Relationship with the Inter/national Fraternity and Sorority Community

INTRODUCTION

The Clemson University Greek community includes the College Panhellenic Council (CPC,) Interfraternity Council (IFC,) and National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and has been on campus since 1970. Since then, Clemson University has and continues to foster and encourage the fraternity/sorority experience as one form of leadership training and an educational experience for our students. Clemson University recognizes that fraternities/sororities can contribute significantly and positively to the quality of the undergraduate experience. The students who choose to join a fraternity/sorority at Clemson University embrace the need for belonging and encouraging scholarship, leadership, civic engagement, social growth, life-long friendships and emulating high purpose. The fraternities/sororities hold high expectations and are held accountable to these expectations for the perpetuation of excellence by Clemson University in partnership with the fraternities'/sororities' undergraduates, inter/national staff, alumni, and volunteers. The following obligations and statements in this document are to serve as a guide, a vision and a prospectus for the successful relationship of fraternities/sororities with Clemson University.

A Statement of Fraternal Values and Ethics

In an effort to lessen the disparity between fraternity ideals and individual behavior and to personalize these ideals in the daily undergraduate experience, the following Basic Expectations of fraternity membership have been established by the North-American Interfraternity Conference and adopted by Clemson University.

I

I will know and understand the ideals expressed in my fraternity ritual and will strive to incorporate them in my daily life.

II

I will strive for academic achievement and practice academic integrity.

III

I will respect the dignity of all persons; therefore, I will not physically, mentally, psychologically or sexually abuse or haze any human being.

IV

I will protect the health and safety of all human beings.

V

I will respect my property and the property of others; therefore, I will neither abuse nor tolerate the abuse of property.

VI

I will meet my financial obligations in a timely manner.

VII

I will neither use nor support the use of illegal drugs;
I will neither misuse nor support the misuse of alcohol.

VIII

I acknowledge that a clean and attractive environment is essential to both physical and mental health; therefore, I will do all in my power to see that the chapter property is properly cleaned and maintained.

IX

I will challenge my members to abide by these fraternal expectations and confront those who violate them.

DEFINITIONS

NOTE: Section to be completed based on the verbiage included in the document.

OBLIGATIONS OF CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

- Clemson University appoints personnel (professional and/or para-professional) in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life as well as Residential Life to oversee, advise, support and advocate for its national fraternity and sorority community, including the members, chapters, governing councils and other associated organizations (ie: honoraries).
- The University will invite members of the fraternity and sorority community to discuss and develop policies and procedures that direct impact of these organizations.
- The University will grant access to University facilities, services, programs and activities in order to support the operation and development of these recognized student organizations.
- The University will refer organizations who have alleged violations of university policy and/or procedure to the Office of Community and Ethical Standards for adjudication.
- The University offers on-campus housing for organizations that express written interest based on availability of space. This process will be administered by University Housing as outlined in the Chapter Eligibility and Assignment Procedures.
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life maintains chapter membership and academic records and provides semesterly chapter summaries as well as comparison data in a timely manner, in accordance with university policies.

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life maintains regular communication with local, regional, inter/national offices and staff members.
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life serves as an educational resource for chapters, councils as well as through community-wide initiatives.
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life establishes and educates council and chapter officers of all applicable deadlines (ie: roster updates, end of new member activities, request for initiation extension, intake process, etc).
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life administers the Chapter Excellence process for all chapters on an annual basis.
- Fraternities and sororities are included in appropriate University publications (print and electronic).

OBLIGATIONS OF THE INTER/NATIONAL FRATERNITY/SORORITY

Clemson University recognizes and respects that each inter/national organization has its own unique administrative structure that designates certain offices (ie: international, national or regional) and/or individuals (ie: inter/national staff member, graduate advisor) to perform the following duties.

- The inter/national organization (or local/regional designee) will assist its chapter in complying with this document.
- The national/international organization (or local/regional designee) shall ensure that its chapter is following all federal, state and local laws.
- The national/international (or local/regional designee) shall communicate with Clemson University in a reciprocal partnership for the betterment of their local chapter.
- The national/international organization (or local/regional designee) is expected to schedule an on-campus visit to their respective chapter by a professional staff member or volunteer at least once per academic year. This person should meet with a staff member of Clemson University during his/her visit.
- The inter/national organization (or local/regional designee) will monitor its chapter's adherence to the inter/national constitution and bylaws.
- The inter/national organization (or local/regional designee) will assist their respective chapter in identifying local alumni to actively serve in support and advisory capacities.
- The inter/national organization (or local/regional designee) will assist the university in resolving conduct/ performance problems involving its chapter at Clemson University.
- The inter/national organization (or local/regional designee) will assist and ensure that its chapter is following all risk management policies set forth by the fraternity/sorority and Clemson University.

OBLIGATIONS OF CHAPTER ADVISOR(S)

- The chapter advisor shall be chosen by the chapter, the alumni/house corporation and/or the inter/national organization.
- The chapter advisor shall be aware of, and conversant in, the university's policies regarding the fraternity and sorority community and equally knowledgeable of the policies and procedures of their respective organizations.
- The chapter advisor shall regularly attend his/her chapter's meetings if possible and be aware of the chapter's functions, activities, and regular operations.
- The chapter advisor will advise the financial officer of the chapter and instill prudent financial management techniques.
- The chapter advisor shall meet regularly with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and with other chapter advisors to exchange ideas and discuss ideas to enhance the community at Clemson University (ie: Advisor Roundtables).
- The chapter advisor shall assist his/her chapter in meeting its obligations outlined in this document.

OBLIGATIONS OF HOUSING CORPORATION (where applicable)

- Fraternities or sororities occupying or utilizing facilities that are not owned by the University must have a functioning house corporation.
- The house corporation will oversee the financial aspects of the facility to ensure that the chapter has a long-term plan in place to meet its on-going financial obligations.
- The house corporation will be responsible for seeing that the facility meets all applicable health, safety, and code regulations.

OBLIGATIONS OF GOVERNING COUNCILS

- The university recognizes the respective governing councils: the Interfraternity Council, College Panhellenic Council, and National Pan-Hellenic Council, as the governing boards for their member organizations. The power and authority of these councils are outlined in their respective constitutions and by-laws.
- The governing councils shall provide services to its member chapters in accordance with their governing documents.
- The governing councils shall act as a resource for its member chapters and the larger community.
- The governing councils are expected to regularly communicate and collaborate with one another in order to create a more cohesive community.

- The governing councils shall be charged with continuous advocacy of fraternity and sorority life to the community, the administration, the faculty, the student body and the general public.
- The governing councils shall strive to work with the administration of Clemson University in aiding and fulfilling its mission and values.
- The governing councils shall develop policies that establish basic standards for member organizations. Standards would support an expectation for scholarship, risk management, membership development, recruitment/intake, and social activities.
- The governing councils shall support and enforce adopted policies, rules, and regulations that govern student behavior.
- The elected councils' leadership shall be knowledgeable about their respective constitutions, by-laws, and policies, as well as university policies and the respective council's guidelines.
- The councils, as self-governing organizations, are responsible to the university for their operation, activities, budgets, programs and publications.

OBLIGATIONS OF CHAPTERS

- Fraternities and sororities shall comply with all local, state, and federal laws and university policies, as well as all policies and laws of their respective inter/national governing body and the policies of the IFC/CPC/NPHC.
- Fraternities and sororities shall conduct their affairs in accordance with the mission and purpose of Clemson University and their respective inter/national organizations.
- Fraternities and sororities will meet the Minimum Expectations, outlined as Step 1 in the Chapter Excellence Program Outline.
- Fraternities and sororities will maintain a semester grade point average of 2.5 or higher. Consequently, chapters will develop and provide a copy to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life of an individual scholarship program to promote effective student skills and reward academic performance.
- Fraternities and sororities shall encourage and support leadership training programs through their own regional or national/international organizations and on-campus workshops sponsored by other organizations or Clemson University. Chapter attendance and involvement in regional or national/international conventions, conclaves, and leadership schools are expectations of chapter operation.
- Fraternities and sororities will develop a program of philanthropic activities that include service to the university, the community, and the general public. Each chapter should participate annually in at least one service project in which a significant percentage of the membership is actively involved.

- Fraternities and sororities shall pay outstanding bills to the university within 30 days of a statement being rendered. Any organization that has an outstanding obligation to the university must submit, in writing, an acceptable timetable ensuring repayment of the total obligation. Failure to do so may lead loss of organizational recognition.
- Fraternities and sororities shall not engage in any form of hazing, to be defined by Clemson University's Student Code of Conduct.
- Chapters are charged with educating their general membership with the Clemson University Student Code of Conduct as well as possible repercussions for non-compliance.
- Fraternities and sororities will ensure that the required number of members attend all mandatory educational programs sponsored by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- Chapters will comply with their national/international organizations and their respective governing councils for policies on intake and recruitment activities.
- Chapters must initiate (e.g., provide full membership status) all qualified new members no later than the deadline (15 days prior to the beginning of semesterly final exams) established by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Chapters may request an extension for initiation from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life with support from their inter/national organization by the published deadline.
- Fraternities or sororities occupying University owned facilities shall maintain such premises in condition satisfactory to the University and in compliance in all respects with the terms of the occupancy agreement.
- Chapters shall hold their membership accountable for compliance with standards and expectations adopted by the chapter, the appropriate governing council, and its national/international office, and the University for establishing a fair and equitable process for taking corrective/disciplinary/standard action when a member(s) is not in compliance.
- The Chapter must be a recognized student organization with the Undergraduate Student Government and adhere to the rules governing initial and continued recognition.

I have read and understand the Relationship Statement above, and I agree to abide by the obligations set forth for my chapter and council. I also acknowledge that this document will be shared with my chapter's advisors, inter/national, regional and/or housing corporation.

 President's Signature/ Chapter Name

 Date

 Advisor's Signature/ Chapter Name

 Date