

RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

Cleveland State University and Greek-letter Chapters



I. Greek Affairs Philosophy Statement

Fraternities and sororities have enjoyed a long history at Cleveland State University and its predecessor, Fenn College, dating back to 1929. These Greek-letter organizations have made significant contributions to campus life, assisted in providing housing at a time when severe shortfalls existed and have served as a source of leadership development and academic and social support for members while pursuing their educational goals.

In particular, fraternity and sorority members have become leaders among University alumni, both in the community in general and in several of the constituent groups that have been a part of the Cleveland State Alumni Association.

The operations and day-to-day activities of undergraduate chapters are the responsibility of the individual fraternities and sororities; however, the Greek system recognizes that the undergraduate chapters exist on the campus with the consent of Cleveland State University and the relationship between the College and its Greek Chapters is dependent on the mutual cooperation and enhanced well being of both parties.

II. Rights and Privileges

Cleveland State University will be responsible for providing support and services to the Greek-letter organizations that remain active and in good standing with the University; including:

- Use of CSU facilities, services and resources;
- Support and assistance from the Department of Student Life in the promotion of Greek organization activities in accordance with CSU policies and procedures;
- Recognition in CSU publications;
- Recognition of awards and other honors presented to CSU organizations and their members;
- Support in the raising of funds for philanthropic promotions;
- Recognition of the right to recruit members from the CSU student body; and,
- Any and all rights outlined in the CSU Student Handbook

III. Responsibilities and Expectations

Cleveland State University supports and recognizes those fraternities and sororities whose practices and purpose are consistent with those of the University. Through this support, the University acknowledges the value of fraternity and sorority life and the benefits of participation in a Greek-letter organization. In instances where a chapter or its members operate in a manner that is found to be contrary to the mission of the University and its students, and/or in violation of National Guidelines of the fraternity or sorority, the University reserves the right to impose sanctions up to and including suspension of chapter recognition and expulsion of the chapter from the University.

Chapter recognition is the formal process by which Cleveland State University agrees that a fraternity/sorority may function on the campus as a recognized student organization by enrolling members and by identifying its chapter with the University. Recognition of a student organization does not imply Cleveland State University's sponsorship of, control over, agreement with, or responsibility for the activities of the organization, nor does recognition authorize the organization to act on behalf of the University.

IV. Active and in Good Standing

In order to maintain Cleveland State recognition and remain in Good Standing, a Greek-Letter organization must comply with the following terms:

A. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS for recognition in good standing for Fall 2002:

1. GRADES: A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 for the combined chapter. If a 2.0 GPA is not achieved, active status of the Chapter shall be suspended until such time that a 2.0 cumulative chapter GPA is achieved.
2. ROSTER: A current chapter membership roster listing each active, inactive and pledge member's name, People Soft identification number; and active e-mail address.
3. CONSTITUTION: An up-to-date organization constitution on file with the Department of Student Life.

B. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS for recognition in good standing for Fall 2003:

1. GRADES: The minimum cumulative GPA of 2.2 for the combined chapter

C. MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. It is highly recommended that all active chapters maintain at least five (5) active members that are currently enrolled as full-time students at Cleveland State University in order to maintain a healthy Greek chapter able to continue to the next academic year.

D. MEETING ATTENDANCE

1. All chapters recognized by Cleveland State University must send a minimum of one (1) representative from its chapter to all Greek Council meetings.
2. All chapters recognized by Cleveland State University must send one (1) officer as a representative of that chapter to a monthly meeting with the Greek Coordinator at a time agreed upon by both parties at the start of the academic year.

E. REACTIVATION

On an annual basis, all student organizations are required by Cleveland State University to reactivate through the Department of Student Life Student Organization Reactivation Process. Each Greek-letter Organization shall provide the Department of Student Life and Greek Affairs Office with the following materials/paperwork in order to remain in active good standing:

1. Reactivation Form listing all officers and other pertinent information
2. A signed University's Hazing Regulations Compliance Statement
3. An up-to-date Chapter Constitution in compliance with CSU policies and procedures and consistent with the CSU mission
4. A completed Agency Account Activation Form identifying officers responsible for signature approval on all budget activity
5. A Chapter Roster complete with active, inactive and pledge members, People Soft numbers and active e-mail addresses
6. The Chapter's Risk Management Policy
7. The Chapter's Membership Development/Education Plan
8. The Chapter's Scholarship Program
9. The Chapter's Alcohol/Drug Abuse Reduction Statement
10. The Chapter's Internal Judicial System policies and procedures
11. Any additional documents as required by the Chapter's National Organization

F. ADVISORS

1. Organization Advisor: Each Greek-letter organization shall enlist the commitment of an Organization Advisor who is a full-time employee of Cleveland State University, preferably an alumnus(a) of its fraternity/sorority, whose duties are published in the Student Organization Policies, Procedures and Guidelines (Section I. B. 1. f.)
2. Chapter Advisor: Each Greek-letter organization is encouraged to enlist the commitment of a Chapter Advisor, who is an alumnus(a) not employed by Cleveland State University, to assist the organization with meetings, activities, national expectations and general tasks of the organization.
3. Alumni Advisor: Organizations may also seek guidance from an Alumni Advisor, who may assist with recruitment, scholarship and educational purposes, is an alumnus/a of Cleveland State or nearby institution and is an alumnus of its fraternity/sorority.

G. EXEMPTIONS

Circumstances may result in a fraternity/ sorority not being able to meet minimum standards (see

IV.A and B.) If an organization does not meet standards and wishes to apply for exemption, "Inactive Status" may only be obtained through written request and approval by the Dean of Students or designee. Inactive Status will limit the chapter's rights and privileges and is limited to two (2) consecutive semesters during which time a Plan of Action will be developed, implemented, and accomplished by the Coordinator of Greek Affairs and the involved chapter in order to regain active status.

V. Risk Management Policies

Each chapter must adhere to their national risk management policies, the Interfraternity council (IFC)/Panhellenic/National Pan-Hellenic risk management policies, and all University policies and procedures. Each chapter is also responsible for obeying all federal, state, and local laws. Violations of the aforementioned policies may result in referral to and action by the CSU Office of Judicial Affairs.

Additionally, each chapter must have:

A. RISK MANAGEMENT

Greek-letter organizations continue to be concerned about under-managed social events sponsored by chapters as well as members decisions regarding the use/abuse of alcohol and other drugs and following federal, state, local laws and policies and procedures of IFC/Panhellenic/Pan-Hellenic and Cleveland State University. Thus the following is required:

1. Education of all chapters on CSU and national policies and procedures regarding risk management through the Coordinator of Greek Affairs (Department of Student Life)
2. Submitted documentation of internal procedures for event planning as per national office
3. 100% attendance by a Risk Manager and/or Social Chair at all required meetings and training offered by the Department of Student Life
4. Copy of chapter risk management policies/manual on file in Department of Student Life (See IV. D. 6)

B. SECURITY/SAFETY

In order to provide a safe and secure environment for chapter members, each chapter will be required to have on file at the beginning of each academic year

1. Crisis management plan
2. An updated listing of insurance and legal counsel

C. INTERNAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Confronting inappropriate behavior and creating high standards of ethical conduct are important goals of Greek organizations. To make certain appropriate mechanisms exist in all chapters, each organization is required to document annually the existence and function of all internal judicial system to enforce their own policies and procedures. (See IV. D. 10.) Each organization must have the means to act quickly in addressing the behavior of a member who violates CSU Student Conduct Code or national chapter policies, through the CSU Office of Judicial Affairs when appropriate, its own internal procedures or those of the international organization. This must include the procedures to promptly and permanently expel a member from the chapter making certain to guarantee all rights of due process and adherence to inter/national procedures. At no time shall the national chapter policies supersede the CSU Student Conduct Code. Violations of the Code must be adjudicated through the Office of Judicial Affairs. All violations occurring within a chapter MUST immediately be reported to the Coordinator of Greek Affairs. Failure to report violations may result in suspension of chapter recognition.

VI. Education

To enhance the individual and personal development of members, each chapter is required to develop and implement a Membership Development Plan (See IV. D. 7.) This plan shall include four programs or workshops each year. The four programs shall be from the following categories:

A. MANDATORY TRAINING is required in the following areas and is available through Greek Affairs in the Department of Student Life:

1. Hazing
2. Recruitment
3. Member education
4. TIPS training

B. OPTIONAL EDUCATION INCLUDES:

1. Leadership Certification (through the Department of Student Life)

A chapter must have at least 50% of all current members in attendance at a program to be counted towards the Membership Development Program standard. It should be noted that the above list is not exhaustive. Chapter leaders, in conjunction with advisors, should develop a program plan that best meets the specific needs of the chapter. Programs may occur during chapter meeting. Chapters are encouraged to work together on programs or may initiate programs in this area jointly sponsored with non-Greek groups.

VII. Accountability, Evaluation and Awards Process

A. ROLE OF THE COORDINATOR OF GREEK AFFAIRS

The Coordinator serves as primary advisor to Greek-letter chapters by promoting the importance of Greek involvement and the co-curricular experience to the CSU community. The Coordinator works collaboratively with chapters to create a vibrant and prosperous fraternity and sorority system.

1. The Coordinator of Greek Affairs ensures that chapters maintain the required grade point average with assistance from the chapters' advisors.
2. The Coordinator ensures that ALL components of reactivation have been met before a chapter can be fully recognized by Cleveland State.
3. The Coordinator coordinates training for all chapters (i.e. hazing, TIPS, risk management, etc.)
4. The Coordinator is responsible for reporting all alleged incidents to the CSU Judicial Officer involving the violation of the CSU Student Conduct Code and all other violations to the appropriate officials.
5. The Coordinator conducts regular meetings with chapter representatives, chapter advisors, national representatives, Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council
6. The Coordinator monitors chapter adherence to all aspects of this Relationship Agreement
7. The Coordinator recommends to the Dean of Students inactive status, suspension or expulsion of any Greek-letter chapters in violation of this Relationship Agreement.

B. GREEK-LETTER CHAPTER EVALUATION

The Department of Student Life will evaluate all recognized Greek-letter organizations at the end of the Spring Semester of each academic year. The evaluation will include a review of the respective chapter's progress in the following areas:

1. Goals and accomplishments,
2. Adherence to the CSU Relationship Agreement,
2. All reports of incidents, misconduct, or disciplinary action taken against the chapter;
3. Attendance at Greek Council meetings; and
4. A report of the Chapter's Progress from the organization's advisor.

Based on the evaluation, each Greek-letter organization will be ranked as follows:

1. Satisfactory achievement (No action necessary)
2. Meeting standards with reservations (Plan for Improvement required)
3. Not meeting standards without reservations (Plan For Improvement required; removal of recognition possible)

C. AWARDS

Annually, awards will be presented to the top-achieving Greek-letter chapter in the following categories:

1. Intramural Sports
2. On-Campus Service/Philanthropy
3. Academic Achievement
4. Collaboration
5. Membership (% Annual Increase)
6. Outstanding Greek Advisor Award
7. Greek Chapter of the Year (based on Awards #1-4 and Greek Games)

Applications will be made available in the Spring Semester and awards will be presented following Greek Games before spring finals.