



Fraternity and Sorority Life Relationship Statement

History

Beginning in 1972, Appalachian State University (ASU) established Greek letter organizations with the hope that these groups would provide involvement opportunities and positive social interactions for its students. At the time, ASU was working to attract students to a rural campus and to keep them engaged in campus life, both during the academic week and on weekends, throughout their undergraduate experience. Despite the national downturn in Greek involvement during the late 70's and early 80's, the ASU system expanded and improved.

Over the years, fraternities and sororities have contributed thousands of hours of service to the Boone and outlying community, raised significant dollars to support local/regional/national philanthropic efforts, leadership on campus in the form of student governance and organizational involvement, and a social presence at Appalachian sporting events and other on and off campus venues. Through campus wide service programs such as the Freshman Move In, Dance Marathon, and Relay for Life, the NPHC Homecoming Step Show as well as individual chapter based programs, our organizations have evolved into an indispensable campus and community partners for student engagement and fundraising. Greeks annually hold visible campus leadership positions in student government, club council, orientation programs, Appalachian Ambassadors, leadership programs, and campus media. Fraternity and sorority life presence and influence on and around ASU is felt in significant ways each year.

Greek Alumni are active and involved in both giving and in representative roles at every level. Many of our organizations have active Alumni Advisory Boards and supportive Alumni or Graduate Chapters. Alumni presence is visible each Homecoming and through increased communication with recent and distant Alumni, organizations have increased Alumni involvement in ritual, social events, and philanthropic endeavors.

Given this history of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Appalachian State, it is our belief that there is an irreplaceable value in fraternity and sorority life provided that organizations are adhering to their stated purpose, values and ritualistic principles. Our fraternal organizations must support the central mission of the institution and must uphold the pillars of Greek Life: **Service, Scholarship, Friendship, and Leadership**. We must commit to a purpose of developing our members through positive social interaction and educational programming, a strengthened

desire to better serve the community that hosts us, and promote leadership that embraces diversity and social change.

Role of the Office for Fraternity and Sorority Life

While the University recognizes the organizations as independent entities, and does not assume any responsibility for the actions of any chapter, we recognize the important relationship between the two entities and desire a mutually beneficial collaboration. Should the University desire to maintain the strong traditions and culture that our fraternal organizations add to campus life, it will be necessary to continue to support and value Fraternity and Sorority Life as an integral student experience, and as organizations worthy of any rights and privileges afforded to any other student organization. The University needs to support Fraternity and Sorority Life in such a way that will facilitate appropriate organizational and personal development. The office and its supportive staff is committed to and will:

- Provide advisement to the 31 recognized organizations, 3 governing councils, and established honorary societies
- Provide programs and services that align with the expectations and values of fraternal involvement and with the vision of the University
- Provide relevant resources and connections with campus partners
- Maintain active oversight of fraternal events (social event registration) and functions
- Maintain communication with leadership, advisors, and National/Regional Offices
- Provide leadership trainings and retreats (leadership development)
- Provide educational workshops and classes
- Track and maintain academic and philanthropic reports
- Recognize the positive achievements of our organizations
- Advocate for and support chapter leadership