



## **Fraternity and Sorority Life Organizational Growth Policy**

*Last Updated: July 2022*

### **University Statement on New IFC-Affiliated Organizations**

*Appalachian State University will not review any applications for the establishment or re-establishment of IFC-Affiliated organizations before January 2024. At which time, the organization is required to follow the Fraternity and Sorority Life Organizational Growth Policy outlined below.*

### **Purpose**

Appalachian State University is committed to our Fraternity and Sorority Life Community and believes in the importance of student growth and involvement. The Campus Activities Office is committed to the holistic development and success of all students, the cultivation of inclusive spaces and communities, and the fostering of meaningful relationships and lifelong learning.

Appalachian State University has been home to Fraternity and Sorority Life since 1972. Since then, more than 30 organizations have called this campus home and we have approximately 2000 students currently thriving in the community these organizations offer. Our community focuses on the following benchmark areas: engagement, DEI, leadership, harm reduction, scholarship, and service. The University is committed to helping our member organizations grow, lead, and succeed on our campus.

When it is determined that a new organization is needed to strengthen our fraternity and sorority life community, the procedures outlined below will be followed. The purpose of the Organizational Growth Policy is to ensure establishment or reestablishment of fraternities and sororities are done with intention and consideration that aligns with the standards and mission of Appalachian State University. A carefully planned and supportive process will ensure that our students have maximum opportunity for a rewarding experience and the relationships between campus and the respective national organizations are maintained.

## **ARTICLE I: POLICIES AND DEFINITIONS**

Social fraternities and sororities (including women's fraternities) are Title IX protected single-sex organizations whose primary purpose is personal development. These organizations are not limited to any particular field of study, profession, or academic discipline. Members of these organizations are not permitted to hold membership in other social fraternities or sororities. Only enrolled students at Appalachian State University are able to maintain and hold membership in our recognized organizations.

### **1.1 University Recognition**

Recognizing the value of student organizations, Appalachian State affords recognized student groups many benefits beyond those programs and services mentioned previously. Below is a brief listing of those benefits:

- a. Use of the name Appalachian State University
- b. Use of campus facilities and support services for meeting and approved activities

- c. Funds for educational activities from Club Council
- d. Permission to enter into solicitation and fundraising activities in accordance with University policies
- e. Access to on-campus University mail services through the ASU Post Office
- f. Participation in the activities of state and/or national organizations, if such affiliation is established, or any other activities which are not in violation of University policy
- g. Ability to develop a website using university resources
- h. Inclusion in university publications and website
- i. Inclusion on distribution list for a bi-weekly electronic newsletter

## 1.2 University Policies and Requirements

Along with the benefits of University, fraternities and sororities are held to a high standard reflective of the quality of educational experience that Appalachian seeks for its students. The following policies and procedures must be followed to maintain recognition and good standing with the University:

- a. [ATLAS Requirements](#)
- b. [Fraternity and Sorority Life Social Policy](#)
- c. [Conducting Intake Guidelines](#)
- d. [Student Organization Policies](#)
- e. [Student Code of Conduct](#)

## 1.3 Definitions and Terms

- a. *Establishment* - Establishment involves inviting inter/national social fraternities and sororities to establish chartered chapters on the campus of Appalachian State University.
- b. *Extension* - Extension is a process of adding one of the 26 organizations of the National Panhellenic Conference to campus. This is a process that is defined, dictated, and managed through the NPC Manual of Information (MOI) - (*National Panhellenic Conference, [Manual of Information, Extension](#), p. 145-156*) and the college Panhellenic Council.
- c. *Intake* - Intake is the process by which the nine associated organizations of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. establish membership on campus. Multicultural organizations such as the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations and National Multicultural Greek Council also utilize an Intake process for establishing chapters on college campuses.
- d. *Reestablishment* - *Reestablishment* involves re-establishing a relationship with past chartered organizations through invitation and support of respective councils. This includes organizations whose recognition was previously suspended or revoked by the University through the formal Organizational Code of Conduct process, previously sanctioned judicial procedures, or their inter/national organization.
- e. *Affiliate Member Organization* - A new organization that registers with Appalachian State University through the Organizational Growth process. The new organization will remain an Affiliate Organization under probationary terms for one year from establishment.
- f. *Interest Group* - A group of App State students who may or may not already be in contact with an (inter)national organization who wish to become a recognized organization at App State.

## **ARTICLE II: JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY**

Appalachian State University reserves the right to approve or deny any fraternity or sorority seeking registration and recognition with the University that does not adhere to this policy or any other guidelines or expectations. The University also reserves the right to limit establishment or re-establishment efforts to one process per calendar year.

### **2.1 Jurisdiction of Governing Councils**

- a. For the purpose of Extension, the campus Panhellenic Council will manage the exploratory process and Extension Committee with the assistance of the Campus Activities Office. (Manual of Information, Unanimous Agreements, Section V). The campus Panhellenic Council will convene and discuss the possibility of extension through an Exploratory Committee. The committee is responsible for providing a written report of findings to the Panhellenic Body and to the Campus Activities Office for approval.
- b. The campus Interfraternity Council will maintain a Fraternity Establishment Committee that will serve as a recommending body to the Campus Activities Office. This committee will determine if it is an appropriate time for community growth, will determine all timelines for reviewing submitted growth proposals, and will provide the Associate Director of Campus Activities, Fraternity and Sorority Life with any recommendations to invite organizations to establish or reestablish.
- c. The NPHC and MGC Executive Boards, respectively, will review potential expansion with any Divine Nine or culturally-based fraternal organization currently not represented on campus. They will provide the Campus Activities Office with a written report and proposal and will be considered as a recommending body.

## **ARTICLE III: PROCEDURES FOR NEW ORGANIZATIONS: Headquarters Petition**

If the governing council (IFC, MGC, NPHC, or PHC) in conjunction with the University have decided to explore expansion, the following process must be followed:

**3.1** All Inter/national organizations seeking recognition must complete and submit a letter of intent to the Campus Activities Office. The letter cannot be submitted by a student or alumni on behalf of the inter/national organization. This letter must include information about the national values and principles, inter/national organization's rationale of how it will be able to differentiate itself from current chapters on campus, and can help strengthen the fraternity and sorority community at Appalachian State University. The letter should also outline goals, priorities, the timeline for establishing a new chapter, and the intentions of the inter/national office to offer continued support to an established chapter and campus. All organizations wishing to be considered must submit a complete packet of petition with their letter. All packets of petitions should include the following information:

- a. Name, Founding Date, Location
- b. Overview of the organization history, mission, and values
- c. List of previous newly established chapters from the past three (3) years, their current status and membership numbers
- d. Any establishment projects currently taking place
- e. Current number of chapters and average chapter size
- f. Number of chapters closed within the past five years and reasoning

- g. Number of staff who will be on campus to support the newly established chapter and length of time they will be here
- h. Membership costs: (inter)national dues, new member fees, initiation fees, insurance costs, etc.
- i. Details on the following policies and programs: Risk Management Policy, new member process outline, scholarship support/programs, DEI efforts and programs, community service and philanthropy expectations, and leadership and member development programs

Upon receiving any letters of intent or formal documentation, the Campus Activities Office will respond in writing to confirm receipt and notify the interested inter/national organization of a review timeline. A letter of intent must be received by July 1st to be considered for the following academic calendar.

**3.2** After reviewing any letters of intent, the Associate Director for Campus Activities, Fraternity and Sorority Life will initiate a discussion and review all submitted information with the respective council's Establishment or Extension Committee. Reviews will occur annually in January and August, or at a time otherwise deemed necessary or appropriate to consider the growth of the fraternity and sorority community. As part of the review, the committee will be responsible for evaluating the need, timing, and feasibility of allowing an additional fraternity or sorority to expand or reestablish. The current national trends and general health of the community at Appalachian State University will set the tone for the review.

**3.3** A formal presentation may be requested as part of the evaluation and review process. If a presentation is requested, the inter/national organization would be responsible for all costs associated with travel to the campus of Appalachian State University. To formally present to the community does not guarantee approval. For all organizations under National Panhellenic Conference Extension, all relevant policies will be followed as stated in the MOI. The expectations of the presentation will be established by the respective council and the Campus Activities Office and will be provided in a formal notification to the inter/national organization two weeks prior to the expected visit.

**3.4** The respective councils or their designees will determine if they wish to extend an invitation or not to an inter/national organization via a council vote after all procedural steps and reviews have concluded. A formal recommendation must be submitted to the Campus Activities Office within five business days of the vote and must include all notes and reports collected during the review.

**3.5** Final decision regarding approval of establishment or reestablishment lies with the University. The inter/national organization will be notified via writing about the decision. If approved, the notification will include a designated timeline of establishment and requirements.

# ARTICLE IV: PROCEDURES FOR NEW ORGANIZATIONS:

## Interest Group Petition

If the governing council (IFC, MGC, NPHC, or PHC) in conjunction with the University have decided to explore expansion, the following process must be followed:

**4.1** All interest groups must meet the following requirements before submitting a letter of intent for recognition:

- a. Have a minimum of 10 members
- b. In contact with an (inter)national headquarters office
- c. Must follow all policies and guidelines listed in **1.2**

**4.2** All interest groups seeking recognition must complete and submit a letter of intent to the Campus Activities Office. This letter must include information about the national values and principles, inter/national organization's rationale of how it will be able to differentiate itself from current chapters on campus, and can help strengthen the fraternity and sorority community at Appalachian State University. The letter should also outline goals, priorities, the timeline for establishing a new chapter, and the intentions of the inter/national office to offer continued support to an established chapter and campus. All organizations wishing to be considered must submit a complete packet of petition with their letter. All packets of petitions should include the following information:

- j. Name, Founding Date, Location
- k. Overview of the organization history, mission, and values
- l. List of previous newly established chapters from the past three (3) years, their current status and membership numbers
- m. Any establishment projects currently taking place
- n. Current number of chapters and average chapter size
- o. Number of chapters closed within the past five years and reasoning
- p. List of current members in the interest group (First Name, Last Name, Banner ID), as well as designated the primary contact person
- q. Number of staff who will be on campus to support the newly established chapter and length of time they will be here
- r. Membership costs: (inter)national dues, new member fees, initiation fees, insurance costs, etc.
- s. Details on the following policies and programs: Risk Management Policy, new member process outline, scholarship support/programs, DEI efforts and programs, community service and philanthropy expectations, and leadership and member development programs
- t. Answers to the following questions:
  - i. Why does this group wish to be recognized by Appalachian State University?
  - ii. Why does this group want to be a part of the Fraternity and Sorority Life community?
  - iii. What value will this group add to the IFC/MGC/NPHC/PHC community?

Upon receiving any letters of intent or formal documentation, the Campus Activities Office will respond in writing to confirm receipt and notify the interested inter/national organization of a review timeline. A letter of intent must be received by **July 1st** to be considered for the following academic calendar. **All IFC interest groups are subject to other ongoing establishing timelines.**

**4.2** After reviewing any letters of intent, the Associate Director for Campus Activities, Fraternity and Sorority Life will initiate a discussion and review all submitted information with the respective council's Establishment or Extension Committee. Reviews will occur annually in January and August, or at a time otherwise deemed

necessary or appropriate to consider the growth of the fraternity and sorority community. As part of the review, the committee will be responsible for evaluating the need, timing, and feasibility of allowing an additional fraternity or sorority to expand or reestablish. The current national trends and general health of the community at Appalachian State University will set the tone for the review.

**4.3** A formal presentation may be requested as part of the evaluation and review process. If a presentation is requested, the inter/national organization would be responsible for all costs associated with travel to the campus of Appalachian State University. To formally present to the community does not guarantee approval. For all organizations under National Panhellenic Conference Extension, all relevant policies will be followed as stated in the MOI. The expectations of the presentation will be established by the respective council and the Campus Activities Office and will be provided in a formal notification to the inter/national organization two weeks prior to the expected visit.

**4.4** The respective councils or their designees will determine if they wish to extend an invitation or not to an inter/national organization via a council vote after all procedural steps and reviews have concluded. A formal recommendation must be submitted to the Campus Activities Office within five business days of the vote and must include all notes and reports collected during the review.

**4.5** Final decision regarding approval of establishment or reestablishment lies with the University. The inter/national organization and interest group leader will be notified via writing about the decision. If approved, the notification will include a designated timeline of establishment and requirements.

## **ARTICLE V: PETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR REESTABLISHMENT**

**5.1** In addition to the process outlined in section 3.1 of this policy, the organization wishing to reestablish at Appalachian State University must provide the following information as part of their petition application:

- a. History of the organization on campus
- b. How the inter/national office will review previous members wishing to participate with the organization either as undergraduate active members or Alumni Advisors

**5.2** Upon receipt of the organization's petition to reestablish, the Director of Campus Activities, or designee, in conjunction with the Office of Student Conduct, will review the organization's past conduct history to determine if the organization is eligible. In order to petition, the organization must clearly have met all suspension requirements as outlined in their suspension letter and section 6.02 of the [Code of Conduct](#). The return of the organization is not automatic. The Director or designee may deny an application for reestablishment if the organization's misconduct during suspension would have warranted additional disciplinary action. If the organization has failed to satisfy any sanction that was imposed prior to application for reestablishment, the Director, or designee, may deny the organization's petition. Consequently, the Director will set a date when another application for reestablishment may be considered.

**5.3 All re-establishing organizations are subject to spring semester establishment and other establishments that are occurring.**

## **Article VI. ESTABLISHMENT AND REESTABLISHMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Any inter/national organization that has been approved to establish at Appalachian State University will follow the University Student Organization Policy and Guidelines Manual for establishment. Once established, the Affiliate Organization will have all rights and privileges associated with student organization recognition. The Affiliate Organization will also be a dues-paying member of their respective council and have voting and participation privileges.

**6.1** The inter/national office will provide Campus Activities the following information prior to arrival on campus:

- a. Establishment timeline
- b. Information about long-term chapter support and advising plan
- c. Affiliate Chapter standards for chapter installation, inter/national organization standards and expectations for active chapters

**6.2** The Affiliate Organization will be considered on probationary status for one year and will need to complete the following:

- a. Maintain good standing with the Campus Activities Office, the respective council, and the University
- b. Complete all minimum recognition expectations as outlined in ATLAS
- c. Meet the Affiliate Chapter standards for installation as provided by the inter/national office

**6.3** If an Affiliate Organization fails to complete the above requirements during their probationary term, the University will either extend the probationary period or revoke recognition. If recognition is revoked, the inter/national organization will be ineligible to petition until five years have passed from the date of lost recognition.

**6.4** Unsuccessful petitions may be resubmitted one calendar year following the initial submission.