SOCIAL SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES

Social sororities and fraternities offer membership to students without regard to a field of study or class year and typically have a minimum grade requirement; however, the average is not at a level equal to that of honorary organizations. The term "social" in social sorority and social fraternity refers to social development. The original intent of these organizations when they began in the 18th Century was to assist students to become "socialized," that is, directed, with proper consideration of one's future responsibilities as a citizen in society. The individual and the organization's members base affiliation on mutual choice. Social sororities and fraternities are self-supporting organizations.

Most social sororities and fraternities are single sex organizations, while social sororities and fraternities may not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, handicap, inter/national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation. University policy and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 do permit their selection of members on the basis of sex.

Understanding Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities at the University of Florida unless such programs and activities are specifically exempt from the law. The University is required to be in compliance with the provisions of Title IX. Therefore, compliance with Title IX is a condition to be a registered student organization at the University. Since passage of this law and the publication of the implementing regulations, the U. S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights has evolved a rather clear set of criteria for determining when single sex organizations are exempt from the provisions of Title IX. These criteria are as follows:

- The organization must have tax-exempt status under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code;
- Members must be limited to students, staff, or faculty at the host institution;
- The organization must be a “social fraternity” as defined by the Department of Education.

The Department of Education defines a “social fraternity” as a group that can answer “no” to each of the following questions:

- Is the organization’s membership limited to persons pursuing or having interest in a particular field of study, profession or academic discipline?
- Is the membership limited to individuals who have a high level of achievement in scholarship or any other endeavor?
- Are the members permitted to hold membership in other social sororities or fraternities?

If a group answers “yes” to any of the questions, it is not a “social sorority/fraternity”, is not exempt from the requirements of Title IX, and must accept members of both sexes.
REGULATIONS
Social sororities and fraternities are required to abide by the same University regulations and policies as other registered or sponsored student organizations (as outlined in the Student Organization Handbook). In addition, social sororities and fraternities are also responsible for abiding by the policies, regulations and procedures of their Inter/National office, the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs (OSFA), as well as their governing council if they are to maintain their rights as a registered student organization. No social sorority or fraternity may be registered at the University without approval from the OSFA as outlined in this document.

Sorority & Fraternity Affairs Requirements
Sororities and fraternities at the University of Florida are must meet the following requirements in addition to the requirements set forth for other student organizations:

Scholarship - Items 2, 3, 4 and 5 are Requirements
1. Active and New Members must be undergraduate or Post Baccalaureate students enrolled at the University of Florida during the Fall and Spring semesters.
2. Chapter must select a Scholarship Chair who will work closely with the OSFA as well as its governing council to provide resources to the chapter.
3. Scholarship chairs will be required to attend Scholarship Chair training/roundtables as offered. The chapter will send a representative/proxy if the Scholarship Chair is unavailable.
4. Chapter shall develop and submit a written scholarship program in conjunction with the Academic Advisor to the OSFA each fall semester.
5. Effective spring 2006, chapter must maintain a last semester chapter GPA of at least 2.7 for both Active and New Members. Effective spring 2007, chapter must maintain a last semester chapter GPA of at least 2.85 for both Active and New Members.
6. Chapter officers must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Role of an Academic Advisor (Adapted from Gamma Sigma Alpha’s Faculty Advisor Role)
1. Assist the chapter in creating an overall scholarship plan.
2. Meet with new members each semester to review their academic progress and plans at the University.
3. Assist with developing a scholarship recognition and academic incentives program for the chapter.
4. Attend any scholarship receptions the chapter hosts.
5. Be available to meet with individual members who are in need of academic assistance.
6. Attend two (2) chapter meetings/dinners/functions each semester to get to know the members and allow the members get to know the Academic Advisor.
Service - Items 1, 2 and 3 or 4 are Requirements

1. Chapter will select a Service Chair who will work closely with the OSFA as well as its governing council to provide resources to the chapter.
2. Service Chair will attend Service Chair training/roundtables as offered. Chapter will send a representative/proxy if the Service Chair is unavailable.
3. Chapters will complete at least two service projects with at least 25% of the chapter participating per semester and at least one philanthropy project per school year.
   OR
4. Chapters will complete at least four service projects with at least 25% of the chapter participating per semester per semester.
5. Chapters communicate service hours and philanthropy dollars donated to the OSFA before the established deadline.

Leadership

Chapter – All Items are Requirements

1. Chapter president must attend annual Greek Advance leadership conference.
2. Chapter must create a written Membership Development Plan or Series each semester, where the chapter attends/sponsors a series of programs or workshops that are designed to enhance the individual and personal development of active and new members (Inter/National and University programs such as Habitat for Humanity and GATORship would apply).
3. Chapter shall maintain an Internal Judicial System allowing the organization to confront inappropriate behavior and create high standards of ethical conduct.

New Member Education – All Items are Requirements

1. New Member Educator and President must attend the appropriate Outcomes workshop (Outcomes of New Member Education, Outcomes of Membership Intake) prior to conducting intake each semester.
2. New members will complete mystudentbody.com prior to initiation or during the semester in which they initiated.
3. New Member class or line must attend training which focuses on alcohol, hazing, and/or sexual assault, etc.
Community

**General – Items 1, 3 and 4 are Requirements**

1. Chapter must be recognized by one of the four governing councils (Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, or Panhellenic Council).
2. Chapter must actively participate in regularly scheduled governing council meetings and functions.
3. Chapter president must conduct a one-on-one meeting with his or her council advisor at least once per semester.
4. Chapter advisor will meet at least once per semester with the council advisor or member of the OSFA staff.

**Alumni – All Items are Requirements**

1. Chapter will select someone to be in charge of Alumni Relations. This can be an Alumni Relations Chair or fall under the responsibilities of an existing executive officer (e.g. Vice President).
2. The chapter’s Alumni Relations Chair (or person in charge of Alumni Relations) will attend Alumni Relations training/roundtables as scheduled. Chapter will send a representative/proxy if the Alumni Relations person is unavailable.
3. Chapter shall organize and host one alumni event per year such as Founder’s Day, Initiation, or Homecoming.

Risk Management

**General – All Items are Requirements**

1. Chapter will select someone to be in charge of Risk Management. This can be a Risk Management Chair or fall under the responsibilities of an existing executive officer (e.g. Vice President).
2. President, Social and Risk Management Chairs shall attend Social/ Risk Management Training at the beginning of each semester.
3. Chapter shall develop and submit a written Crisis Management Plan at the beginning of each school year to the OSFA.
4. Chapter shall adhere to all Federal, State, and University Policies, including the Student Code of Conduct and policies of its respective governing council.
5. Chapter programming shall include at least one seminar, guest speaker, and/or presentation concerning alcohol, drugs, hazing and/or sexual assault each semester.
6. Chapters shall maintain liability insurance in the amount of $1 million for un-housed chapters and $2 million for housed chapters. Original and up-to-date certificate of insurance must be filed with Environmental Health & Safety.

Alcohol and Social Events – Item 2 is a Requirement

1. Chapter shall become familiar with and implement the Social Event Guidelines Policy.
2. Chapter shall execute two or more alcohol-free social events each semester.

Membership Intake/New Member Education – Item 1 is a Requirement

1. Chapter must abide by the University's initiation/intake window; new members must be initiated within 10 weeks and 2 weeks before the last day of class.
Administrative Affairs - All Items are Requirements

1. Chapter will maintain an active chapter advisor or chapter advisory board.
2. Chapter must submit a signed Grade Release Form for all new members to the OSFA by the required date.
3. Chapter will submit all required membership intake/new member education paperwork (e.g. New Member Roster) by the required date(s).
4. Chapter must update the chapter roster in the Florida Greek Database by the required dates (twice in the Fall, twice in the Spring, and once in the Summer).
5. Chapter must maintain accurate contact information for the chapter advisor, academic advisor, house director (if applicable), and house corporation (if applicable) in the Florida Greek Database.

Understanding the Role, Function and Importance of a Chapter Advisor

The Office of Sorority & Fraternity Affairs (OSFA) believes that an active, involved chapter advisor is a key ingredient to a successful chapter. Accordingly, each chapter shall have a chapter advisor who either lives or works within the immediate Gainesville area, and who has the support of the Inter/National organization. The advisor shall be an alumnus of the sorority or fraternity and at least three years removed from his/her undergraduate chapter experience (unless a specific exemption is granted by the University in conjunction with the Inter/National organization), should have some form of Greek experience, and shall provide the chapter and its membership with continuing advice and support. The advisor will agree to:

a. Attend most chapter meetings
b. Attend Chapter Advisor meetings when scheduled by the OSFA
c. Meet with staff from the OSFA at least once per semester
d. Assist with special events and programs of the chapter
e. Assist the Academic Advisor in the promotion of scholarship
f. Work closely with the chapter president, treasurer, risk manager, social chair, and new member educator
g. Assist the chapter in preparing and implementing chapter budgets, goals, event management, and crisis management procedures
h. Stay abreast of University policies, particularly those that pertain to social sororities and fraternities
i. Stay abreast of the rules and regulations of the Inter/National organization.

The Office of Sorority & Fraternity Affairs will work with chapters and their Inter/National organizations to locate potential chapter advisors and will provide additional resources toward training and developing advisors.
Facility Management (if applicable) - All items are Requirements

1. Chapters with a live-in facility must have a live-in house director (please refer to the House Director Policy for more information).
2. Chapter must have an active house corporation entity as defined below.
3. Chapter will select a House Manager who works with Environmental Health & Safety to ensure that the chapter house is in compliance with the University of Florida Sorority & Fraternity Fire Safety Program. The facility must be a Level 1 or Level 2 rating for each Fire Safety Inspection.
4. Comply with the University of Florida Chapter Facility Policy by promptly paying all financial obligations to the University (Physical Plant, Environmental Health & Safety, etc).
5. The facility must have a satisfactory inspection from the Alachua County Health Department.

Understanding the Role, Function and Importance of a House Corporation
The Office of Sorority & Fraternity Affairs (OSFA) believes that an active, involved house corporation is a key ingredient to a successful chapter facility. Accordingly, each chapter shall have a house corporation officer who either lives or works within the immediate Gainesville area, and who has the support of the Inter/National organization. The house corporation will agree to:

a. Complete all paperwork with the Internal Revenue Service and State of Florida to be an incorporated entity in good standing
b. Establish the cost for living in the house, meal plans, and out-of-house fees as well as bill for and collect these monies
c. Hire, supervise, and train the House Director in accordance with the House Director Policy
d. Oversee the implementation and execution of the University of Florida Sorority & Fraternity Fire Safety Program and the Chapter Facility Policy
e. Attend House Corporation meetings when scheduled by the OSFA
Chapter Score Card

The Office of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs will evaluate chapters each semester on the criteria outlined above. Chapters will be evaluated as Exceeds Expectations, Meets Expectations, or Does Not Meeting Expectations for each item. Further, each chapter will receive a holistic rating in every section of:

1. Exceeds Expectations – chapter met and exceeded (when applicable) all expectations and requirements
2. Meets Expectations – chapter met or exceeded all requirements but did not meet one or more expectations
3. Does Not Meet Expectations – chapter did not meet any one requirement
4. Not Applicable - this section is not relevant for the chapter.

Florida Greek Standards Review Committee

When a chapter does not meet expectations in one or more sections, the organization shall be referred to the Florida Greek Standards Review Committee. This committee shall consist of the professional staff member from the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs that advises the council the organization is recognized by; a staff member from the Academic Advising Center, the Alumni Association, or the Dean of Students Office (to be determined based on the section in which the chapter did not meet expectations); the Executive Vice President of the council the organization is recognized by; one student member of the Greek Judicial Board from the council the organization is recognized by; and one student member of the Greek Judicial Board from another council. The staff member from OSFA shall serve as Chair of this committee.

A meeting with the committee will be conducted after the evaluation is completed, and the chapter leadership along with the chapter advisor will attend. House corporation board members and/or the house director may be asked to attend the meeting if the issue is related to a facilities matter. The purpose of the meeting is for dialogue among the chapter leadership and the committee to ascertain why the chapter did not meet expectations and to discuss and collaborate on strategies for future compliance.

At the end of the meeting, a recommendation of corrective measures will be forward to the Executive Director of the Reitz Union or his/her designee. This individual will review the recommendations and make a final decision about what the chapter must do to meet expectations for the following semester and beyond.

If a chapter fails to meet expectations for two or more consecutive semesters, and the committee does not see continual improvement, a recommendation could be made for loss of registration. If this occurs, the organization will need to work with the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs and its governing council to return to campus via the expansion policy. Before registration will be granted to the organization, it must also clearly demonstrate how it will meet expectations in the future.