

# BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

## FRATERNITY/SORORITY RECOGNITION AND GOVERNANCE

### PREAMBLE

Binghamton University acknowledges that social fraternities and sororities can have a positive impact on the educational and social experiences of members and others in the campus community. However, for this to occur there must be consistency between University goals and those of individual chapters. Therefore, this recognition policy describes the relationship between social fraternities and sororities and the University and provides a mechanism for encouraging consonance of goals. The President has assigned to the Vice President for Student Affairs primary responsibility for the administration of this policy.

In the application of this recognition policy, the University remains committed to the letter and spirit of the Board of Trustees' Policy on "Affiliation of Campus Student Organizations with National Social Organizations". These same principles will be applied to fraternities and sororities without national affiliation.

As is the case with University affiliation with any externally incorporated organization, chapters are expected to maintain consonance of goals and standards with those of the University, disclose principals of the organization, and provide mechanisms for accountability.

### RECOGNITION

Recognition is the formal process by which the University gives permission to a fraternity or sorority chapter to function on campus, reserve University space, enroll members, and identify with the University.

Withdrawal of recognition or other changes in recognition status may result should standards decline as measured by failure to meet recognition criteria, hazing conduct, or violation of federal, state, local law, or university policy as determined through the Fraternity/Sorority Review Process.

The university maintains the right to limit expansion of fraternities and sororities based on the total number of groups currently recognized, the total number of students within those groups, the availability of university resources necessary to support a healthy Fraternity/Sorority System. At any time that the Vice President for Student Affairs shall conclude that the combination of these factors does not support the addition of new chapters, he/she will declare a moratorium on expansion until such time that in his/her best judgment, the university can support additional chapters.

### Types of Recognition

Recognition is of three types:

1. **Full Recognition** accords all rights, privileges, obligations, and University resources available under the recognition process.
2. **Provisional Recognition** provides approval for a specified period of time during which a group is considered to be in the process of seeking full university recognition. During this time the group is expected to achieve the goals delineated within the constitution of the council in which they seek membership and complete the process of recognition.

recognition during the allotted time its provisional recognition is withdrawn.

Provisional Recognition is applied during establishment of a new chapter or the re-establishment of a formerly active fraternity/sorority chapter and is formally changed by action of the organization's council or, in the case of groups assigned to the provisional council, by the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board. During this period all rights, privileges, obligations, and University resources are available to the organization.

3. **Probationary Recognition** entails conditional withdrawal of certain University services or benefits and/or application of specific sanctions by the University against the chapter for a specified period of time.

### Criteria for Recognition

To be eligible for University recognition, a chapter must:

1. Be sponsored by a national or local group with an active independently incorporated board.
2. Each chapter must declare and pursue goals, which are in consonance with the mission of the University and Board of Trustees' policies. These goals must be reflected in the following chapter documents, which shall be submitted to the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor as part of the initial application for recognition:
  - a. The constitution, bylaws, and description of the national organization or incorporated sponsoring group along with a letter of recognition from the sponsoring body.
  - b. The chapter constitution, bylaws, statement of purpose, and goals. The chapter must provide a complete description of the chapter structure and how the chapter assigns responsibility for the following functions:
    1. Fraternity/Sorority chapter financial activities
    2. Program planning
    3. Compliance with University disciplinary standards for individual students and with other University regulation
    4. Recruitment, selection, and education of new members
    5. Communication with the University's administration
    6. Participation within the fraternity/sorority governance system
  - c. A statement of policies and standards for the recruitment, selection, education, and initiation of new members (see also Anti-Hazing Regulations and Procedures).
  - d. A certificate of insurance naming Binghamton University and the State of New York as additionally insured.
3. Each chapter is required to provide written acknowledgment of its responsibilities within the University community.

- Each chapter is to provide the University with full membership information. Prospective membership is only open to full-time Binghamton University students who have earned a minimum of 12 credit hours during matriculation at a college campus prior to joining a Greek organization and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50.

Following initiation it is expected that members of fraternities/sororities will continue as students in good academic standing or limit fraternity/sorority involvement to activities that directly enhance scholarship and high academic performance.

- Each chapter must meet the minimum membership standard for their type of chapter (See definitions under Governance Councils p. 9). The minimum number of members necessary for initial recognition shall be equal to the average chapter size of like organizations recognized by the four SUNY - University Centers (Binghamton, Albany, Stonybrook & Buffalo). These numbers shall be determined by the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor and revised every 3 years as necessary.
- Fraternities and sororities will have an advisor of record appointed consistent with the University policy delineated under obligations for the period of provisional recognition. Upon completion of the provisional recognition period all chapters are encouraged to continue this supportive relationship. Should an advisor not be available to an organization following the provisional period, the advisor of record may be designated as an appropriate official affiliated with the sponsoring body.

## Procedures for Recognition

The first step toward recognition is completion of the Fraternity/Sorority Application for University Recognition Form. This form may be obtained from the university's Fraternity/Sorority Advisor who will assist the group with all aspects of the recognition process.

Upon completion of the application form and accumulation of all associated documents as specified under "Criteria for Recognition", the F/S Advisor will present the group to the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board for recognition. The chapter will be afforded an opportunity to make a presentation on its behalf to the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board.

Following the organization's presentation and the report of the F/S Advisor, the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board will determine whether the organization's request is in compliance with the University Recognition Policy. If accepted, the board will recommend to the Vice President for Student Affairs that the group be granted provisional recognition and nominate it to the appropriate council.

This nomination acknowledges the appropriateness and/or compatibility of the proposed group with the council, as determined by the group's stated goals and mission, its national affiliation, and/or other statements of purpose.

Should an organization's sponsoring body be affiliated with more than one national umbrella group, the local chapter will be consulted as to which council it wishes to belong. This request will be considered by the Leadership Board whose decision shall be binding for the period of time beginning with initial recognition and extending through the group's first re-certification process. During re-certification council membership may be reconsidered if an organization's sponsoring body has modified its national affiliations.

Should an interest group not be compatible with any of the existing councils, the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board will place the group in a council taking in to consideration the desires

of the group, the current status of the council(s) being considered and the recommendation of the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor.

The president of the fraternity or sorority will furnish written acceptance of the offer of recognition to the Chair of the F/S Leadership Board along with the stated goals of the organization for the initial recognition period that will be used to assess the group within the re-certification process should the group achieve full university recognition. The Chair will forward copies to the Vice President for Student Affairs, the F/S Advisor, and the president of the appropriate governance council. During the period of Provisional Recognition all groups are expected to maintain all community standards associated with initial recognition.

From the date of the acceptance of provisional recognition, the organization will have one year to complete the governance council's process for becoming a fully recognized fraternity or sorority as outlined in the council's constitution and approved by the F/S Leadership Board. At the end of the provisional year a new organization's council must:

- Recommend to the Leadership Board that the group be granted Full Recognition.
- Recommend to the Leadership Board that the group's Provisional Recognition be extended.
- Recommend to the Leadership Board that the group's Provisional recognition be withdrawn.

Based upon recommendation of the council to the F/S Leadership Board, the group may again be asked to present itself before the F/S Leadership board. Following its deliberations, the board shall determine if the group is to be granted Full Recognition have Provisional Recognition withdrawn. In all cases the board will recommend its findings to the Vice President for Student Affairs who will notify the group in writing of its Recognition status.

## Intent to Seek University Recognition Fraternity & Sorority Interest Group Status

At such times when the University or a particular fraternity or sorority governing council is closed to expansion, students who wish to form a new fraternity or sorority or colonize as a group at Binghamton may declare their intention to seek university recognition and thus be acknowledged as an interest group.

Interest group status does not imply any formal recognition of the organization by either the University or any governance council and does not grant said group any university privileges. However, "forming organizations", which have declared their interest and intent to seek recognition, will be given preference for recognition when expansion does become possible.

Any organization that wishes to gain interest group status must, at the time of consideration for recognition, be able to show that it has abided by all university policies and regulations during its tenure as an interest group. For example:

- That all members were recruited in accordance with university policy:  
As stated in the University's policy for the Recognition and Governance of Social Fraternities and Sororities, Binghamton limits the recruitment and new member (pledging) activities to those students who:
  - Have earned a minimum of 12 credit hours:
    - Freshman must have earned 12 credit at this campus
    - Transfers must have earned 12 credits while matriculated at another accredited college or university.
  - Have achieved a minimum university cumulative grade point average of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale.
  - Are matriculated, FULL-TIME undergraduate students enrolled at Binghamton University.

- That recruitment activities complied with dry recruitment guidelines,
- That new member education was conducted in an alcohol and hazing free environment and in a time frame consistent with that prescribed by the university,
- That the organization has established goals and conducted programs and activities consistent with those expected by the University of all recognized groups

In addition, interest groups must agree to restrict recruitment programs in any given semester to a time period that respects the ability of all currently recognized groups (of the council within which the interest group may be seeking recognition) to have extended invitations of membership first. It will be the responsibility of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs to communicate these dates to the interest groups on a semester-by-semester basis.

In order to become an interest group all students involved in the forming interest group must meet with the Fraternity & Sorority Advisor in order that he/she might explain the commitment the interest group is making and the understanding under which the group will function. If, after this meeting, the group still wishes to pursue interest group status the designated officers and each student considered by the group to be a member at that time will sign the "Intent to Seek University Recognition (B)" document. All students registering as founding members must meet university criteria for membership as do fraternity and sorority members. It is this document that will serve as the official roster of the interest group and the foundation from which all future recruitment will be

### Rights and Privileges of University Recognition

The following rights and privileges are provided to all groups under the recognition policy:

1. Acknowledgment by the University that fraternity and sorority life can provide a positive experience for students and that the chapter is meeting its obligations to the University and community.
2. Use of the University name along with, but not in place of, identification of the sponsoring body in accordance with University policy as approved by the Director of Off Campus College, and the Assistant Vice President for Finance (when commercial activities are involved).
3. Use of University facilities for the purpose of meetings and activities, which further the organization's stated goals and are consistent with University policies governing the use of space by student organizations.
4. Participation in the fraternity/sorority governance system at the University.
5. Participation in Rush and new member intake activities as articulated and monitored by the governance system and the University.
6. Access to the professional staff of the University assigned to administer and support Fraternity/Sorority activities as they enhance the educational experience of students.
7. The right to apply for any funds, grants, or other resources made available to student organizations at the University.
8. Participation in the programs and activities of the University, which are provided for fraternities and sororities.

9. The University will communicate with the national and local sponsoring board in order to establish a strong working relationship in support of the chapter.
10. The University will establish and maintain a Fraternity/Sorority Review Board system to deal with conflicts between groups and violations of Governance Council and/or University policies.

### Obligations of Fraternity & Sorority Recognition

All recognized fraternities and sororities are required to meet the following obligations. Recognized Fraternities and Sororities at Binghamton University are expected:

1. To promote scholarship, participate in educational and developmental opportunities offered by the University and national chapters, engage in University and community service projects, and develop opportunities for leadership and service for chapter members.
2. To comply with the provisions of this Recognition Policy, abide by all University rules and regulations and policies local, state, and federal laws and statutes.
3. To develop membership practices that encourage participation by students irrespective of race, creed, national origin, age, disability, or sexual orientation and follow an educational and constructive new member education program consistent with Binghamton's Anti-Hazing Regulations
4. To adopt, maintain, and conduct business in accordance with a constitution or set of by-laws, practice sound financial management and record keeping and participate in the fraternity/sorority governance system.
5. To respect the rights of others both on and off campus and refrain from affiliation with any type of auxiliary organization (an auxiliary organization is defined as one which does not have an independent existence and for which the primary purpose is to promote and support another dominant organization).

### Mandatory Educational Activities

Each Fraternity/Sorority is required to participate in any educational and/or developmental activities sponsored by the University and designated as mandatory by the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board. Requests for mandatory designation can be brought to the board from any constituency of the University and must be on the Board's agenda at least 2 weeks prior to the event. All requests should be filed with the Director of Off Campus College for inclusion on the Board's agenda. The decision of the Board in these matters is final. Any group not complying with the mandatory requirement as reported by the F/S Advisor may be at risk relative to its continuing recognition status.

### Maintenance and Re-certification of Recognition

In order to **maintain recognition**, each chapter must submit the following documents to the office of fraternity/sorority advisor in accordance with the established deadlines. Failure to submit these documents as required will result in the immediate suspension of recognition until such time that the chapter has filed the documents and is therefore in compliance with the obligations of fraternity/sorority recognition.

- Certificate of Insurance
- Fraternity/Sorority Membership Roster with members' email addresses
- Fraternity/Sorority Contact Information Form
- New Member Registration Forms
- New Member Initiation Form

- New Member Roster
- Chapter Advisor Registration and Information Form
- Semester Report

In order to **re-certify recognition**, every three years each chapter must verify that its activities and development are in consonance with the goals and standards of the university as well as consistent with goals established by the chapter.

In order to accomplish re-certification each chapter must complete the "Re-certification of Fraternity/Sorority Recognition Request". This request includes the following:

1. Updates of all documents required for initial recognition.
2. A summary of the information submitted in the semester reports of the previous 6 semesters.
3. A membership report tracking each semester's membership numbers over the course of the past three years.
4. The F/S advisor's recognition report – A report that includes the group's recognition status during the period of assessment and any additional information the advisor deems relevant to the chapter's ongoing recognition.
5. A statement of progress toward goals submitted for the recognition period ending.
6. A revised statement of goals for the coming recognition period.

This information is submitted to the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board for assessment through the F/S Advisor after which a re-certification presentation is scheduled for the chapter should the board desire. If requested, the re-certification presentation should include each chapter's presentation of its progress toward goals, a summary of its activities for the past three-year recognition period and a presentation of its submitted goals for the coming recognition period.

Following this presentation, the F/S Leadership Board will submit a recommendation to the Vice-President for Student Affairs and to the chapter. The F/S Leadership Board may recommend one of the following actions:

1. Re-certify the organization's full recognition for a 3-year period with suggestions.
2. Re-certify the organization's full university recognition for a specified period during which specific goals must be accomplished.
3. Decertify the organization.

Upon receipt of the F/S Leadership Board's recommendation, the chapter will have 5 business days to submit to the Vice-President for Student Affairs any additional information they feel should be considered relative to their re-certification.

The Vice-President for Student Affairs will notify the chapter in writing of the outcome of their re-certification process.

### Changes in Recognition Status

A chapter will continue to maintain its recognition status so long as it continues to meet the criteria for recognition. When it is determined that a chapter has failed to meet expectations, or a violation of the policies described in this document occur, then alterations in the chapter's recognition status will be implemented through the procedures of the Fraternity/Sorority Review Process which follows.

## THE FRATERNITY/SORORITY REVIEW PROCESS

The Fraternity/Sorority Review Process provides a system of judicial review for Greek organizations at Binghamton University. This system governs all disciplinary proceedings or actions proposed, initiated or implemented against any recognized fraternity or sorority, which is alleged to have violated any rule or regulation within the purview of these procedures.

The Fraternity/Sorority Review Process adjudicates complaints and/or violations of University Policies by or against recognized organizations only. The process does not bring forth charges against individual students. However, violations and/or complaints that involve individuals may result in charges being brought against specific students within the University Judicial Process should it be determined that their individual behavior was in violation of, and within the jurisdiction of, "The Rules of Student Conduct."

The Fraternity/Sorority Review Process is created to support the educational mission of the University and is based on three premises:

1. Discipline is implemented as a step toward a safe and secure living/learning environment.
2. Discipline is a route to community development.
3. Discipline is taken as an educational objective.

The process itself is designed to be educational for students in organizations charged. In addition, hearing boards have the opportunity to educate, and extend a "second chance" to the charged group, as appropriate, through the sanctioning process.

The Director of Off Campus College shall serve as the regulatory officer of the Fraternity/Sorority system at Binghamton University. As such it shall be the responsibility of the Director to receive information about alleged violations of University policy, governance council constitutions, and/or local, state, or federal law by chapters.

### Procedures and Due Process

To assure that due process is provided, the following guidelines have been established:

1. Charges may be requested against organizations by any member of the University community for alleged violations of the recognition policy.
2. Pending final action on a charge (including the appeal process), the recognition status of the charged group is not altered unless the continued presence of the organization would constitute a clear and present danger to its members or prospective members, to the safety of others, or to the property of the University. In these instances an organization may face summary action such as immediate suspension of recognition, denial of access to facilities, or ceasing of new member education programs, etc. pending the outcome of a formal review.

In cases where the ability to take this action may prevent injury or, where it is probable that the alleged activity places students at risk, the Director of Off Campus College in conjunction with the Assistant Vice President for Student Life shall forward a recommendation for summary action to the Associate Vice President/Dean of Students.

Should the Associate Vice President/Dean of Students not accept the recommendation for summary action, the Director of Off Campus College will schedule a hearing. If the recommendation is accepted, all activities of the accused organization must immediately cease. The organization is notified that it has 2 working days to file an

appeal of this action with the Vice President for Student Affairs.

3. Charges against organizations must be in writing with sufficient particularity and in sufficient time (at least 5 days prior to a hearing) to insure opportunity to prepare for the hearing. At the same time, the organization is informed of its rights and of the review procedures to be followed. Charges should be delivered by hand or by certified mail to the president or other appropriate executive board member of the organization.
4. All matters on which a decision may be based must be brought up at the hearing and must be based on a preponderance of evidence. Organizations being charged must have full opportunity to present evidence, call witnesses, and question all witnesses presenting information at the hearing. Organizations also have the right to be present when evidence is being presented, to respond to and ask questions, or to refuse to answer questions. Refusal to answer questions is not considered an admission of responsibility.

Organizations charged have the right to review any written documents presented. If such documents are available prior to the hearing, organizations have the opportunity to review them before the hearing. If they are presented at the hearing, students have the opportunity to review them at that time.

5. Organizations being charged have the right to be assisted by an advisor of their choice. The advisor must abide by the guidelines established for the hearing.
6. A tape recording is kept of the hearings, with sufficient detail to assure that on an appeal the relevant testimony may be reviewed. Names of those at the hearing should be recorded.

### **The Fraternity/Sorority Review System**

1. The Director of Off Campus College is responsible for investigating all allegations regarding incidents and responds as follows:
  - a. Complaints, incident reports, or other charges come to the Director of Off Campus College in writing.
  - b. The Director investigates all allegations.
  - c. The Director issues a charge letter to the group that delineates all charges, procedural rights, and sets the date and time of the administrative review.
2. The Administrative Review.
  - a. The Director reviews the rights of the accused organization and discusses the incident, charges pending, and options for resolving the situation.
  - b. The Director offers the group 1) the opportunity to accept responsibility for the incident and resolve the issue with an administrative agreement, or 2) to plead not responsible and have the matter forwarded to a Fraternity/Sorority Review Board.
  - c. In special circumstances, where the charges are severe and may result in suspension or withdraw of recognition, the Director will discuss the issue with the group, but will not offer resolution. In these cases the Director will immediately schedule a hearing with the Fraternity/Sorority Review Board.
  - d. If the group accepts responsibility, the Director will offer a sanction. Should the group decide at that time that it would rather go before a Review Board than

accept the sanction offered, it may do so. In these cases, the Director may only report to the Review Board that an administrative agreement could not be reached regardless of the group's accepting responsibility for the incident during the administrative review.

- e. If administrative agreement is reached, the Director is limited to Category I Sanctions of "No Change in Status" or "Probationary Recognition" and/or any or all Category II Sanctions as defined below.
- f. If an administrative agreement is reached the Director will give the chapter president or appropriate designee the agreement form delineating the understanding for signatures. The chapter will have 2 working days to return the form, appropriately signed, or the Director will forward the matter to a review board to hear the case.
- g. If the group pleads "not responsible" or, if an administrative agreement cannot be achieved, the Director will refer the case to a Fraternity/Sorority Review Board. In these cases the Director will bring charges and represent the University in matters involving violations of recognition policies.

### **The Fraternity/Sorority Review Board**

1. The Fraternity/Sorority Advisor is responsible for seating a Fraternity/Sorority Review Board for the purpose of hearing cases involving violations of this policy, governance council constitutions and/or University policies, and/or state, local or federal law.
2. Review Boards are composed of three students representing three different governance councils and one University administrator or faculty member. The council of the accused chapter must be included and serves as the chair of the review board.
3. Each governance council annually selects up to 4 members of the council at large to serve as members of the Review Board. All members are trained for service on the Review Board.
4. The F/S Advisor recruits administrators and faculty board members.
5. A student member from the governance council of the accused organization chairs each board. The chair shall be a full participant in the hearing process and is a full voting member of the board. The chair reads the charges, questions, and conducts the hearing process.

No board member may hear a case involving his or her own organization. Therefore, in the event that there is but one organization in the Provisional Council and a hearing is required concerning that group, the group will not have a seat on the Review Board hearing the case and the Review Board will be chaired by the faculty/administrative representative.
6. All procedures of the board will allow for due process and protection of the rights of chapters.
7. When seated, the board will hear charges brought on behalf of the University by the Director of Off Campus College. When charges are brought by a governance Council, the charges will be presented by the President of the Council unless the violation involves his/her chapter, wherein charges will be brought by the next highest ranking executive officer not affiliated with the accused organization.

8. All recommendations of the board relative to a chapter being "responsible" or "not responsible" for alleged violations of University policy and accompanying sanctions shall be forwarded to the Dean of Students for final adjudication.

## Review Board Hearings

In addition to the procedures set forth above, the following applies to all review board hearings:

1. **Quorum** - a quorum shall consist of one representative from each of 3 governance councils and one University faculty or staff member. If a quorum is not present, the chair asks the group if they wish to have the hearing proceed without a quorum. If the accused organization does not wish to proceed, the hearing is adjourned and rescheduled.

In addition to the appropriate chair being present in order for a hearing to proceed, there must be a University faculty or staff member present. If either of these board members is absent, the hearing is adjourned and rescheduled.

2. **Absence of the Organization Charged** - If the organization charged is not present, and has not presented a reasonable excuse to the Director of Off Campus College prior to the hearing, the hearing is held in the organization's absence. The hearing board considers the evidence available and bases its decision on such evidence. The absence of the organization charged is not an admission of culpability.
3. **Impartiality** - the accused organization may challenge the impartiality of any member of the hearing board. If there is a challenge, the hearing board decides if the challenge is legitimate. The decision is noted in the record. Challenges must be made before evidence is presented. If board members feel that they cannot be impartial, they must say so and excuse themselves from the hearing. If, at the close of the hearing, accused organizations wish to question the conduct of a board member during the hearing, they may file an appeal with the Dean of Students.
4. **Hearings** - Hearings are closed to the public unless the organization charged has a compelling reason to request an open hearing. Such requests must be made in writing in advance of the hearing. The University, other groups charged, and/or others involved in the case, will be notified of the request and may submit an objection. The decision rests with the review board.
5. **Advisor** - the accused organization may be accompanied by an advisor of choice who takes no direct part in the proceedings unless permitted to do so, and then only to the extent permitted by the chair of the review board.
6. **Role of the Review Board** - to help in their deliberations, the review board may ask questions and call witnesses during the course of a hearing.
7. **Presentation of Information** - Presentation of information, evidence, and questions must be relevant to the case. Information presented must have been obtained in a manner consistent with local, state, and federal law. The chair makes determinations regarding the presentation of information.
8. **Votes** - Votes by the board, as to responsible or non-responsible and sanctions to be recommended, are by simple majority. Any member not participating in all aspects of a hearing shall not cast a vote.
9. **Decisions** - the board completes a summary report of its decision on the charges and its recommendation for the

sanctions. The chair of the board forwards the report to the Dean of Students for final adjudication.

10. **Notification** - The Dean of Students forwards his decision and accompanying sanctions to the organization president of record along with the appropriate appeal process information. This information is also sent to the organization's national headquarters when appropriate.
11. **Records** - Following the appeal period or process, the Dean of Students forwards a copy of the final outcome of the case to the Director of Off Campus College. The Director includes this report in the organization's recognition file until such time as the sanction period has expired or requirements of the sanction fulfilled.

## Sanctions

In either an administrative agreement or a Review Board report, the organization must be found to be "responsible" relative to the complaint before any sanctions may be imposed. After this determination is made, the Director of Off Campus College or the Review Board will move to decisions relative to sanctions.

There are two categories of sanction:

**Category I Sanctions:** These sanctions reflect a change in the organization's recognition status.

1. **No Change in recognition status.**
2. **Move to Probationary Recognition** - Chapter probation is for a determined period of time and may or may not involve category II sanctions. In the event that further infractions occur or if the schedule of action prescribed in category II is not met, the Vice President for Student Affairs may invoke suspension or withdrawal of recognition.
3. **Suspension of Recognition** - Suspension is for a specified period of time during which all activities of the chapter are suspended and chapter privileges are revoked.
4. **Withdrawal of Recognition** - Upon withdrawal of recognition, all chapter operations must cease. All campus privileges and University permission of the chapter to function are revoked. Upon withdrawal of recognition the chapter shall be ineligible to reapply for recognition for five years, unless the Vice President for Student Affairs waives this requirement.

**Category II Sanctions:** These sanctions may be conditions that are associated with the Category I recommendations or may be implemented even if there is no change in recognition status recommended.

1. **Warning** - A written reprimand to the offending chapter for the violation specified, including notice that repeated violations may be cause for further disciplinary actions. The duration of the warning period must be specified.
2. **Developmental Activities** - A social, service, or educational project that will be determined by the Review Board directly or a recommendation for hours of service to be defined in conjunction with the fraternity/sorority advisor and/or the Director of Off Campus College.
3. **Restitution or reimbursement** - in cases of damage, destruction, defacement, theft, or unauthorized use of property, restitution to the University or to an individual may be required. This may include reasonable administrative costs and may be in addition to other sanctions. Restitution may also include payment for medical bills. Failure to make restitution may lead to further charges.
4. **Loss of Privileges** - May include loss of use of University facilities, participation in F/S activities, recruitment (Rush) / membership intake, and new member activities (pledging), etc.

## Additional Review Board Policies

Should recognition be restored after suspension or withdrawal of recognition, the chapter will initially be granted probationary recognition for one year.

Current individual members registered at the University could face campus disciplinary action for failure to comply with any suspension or withdrawal of recognition.

All sanctions should include appropriate time frames relative to reconsideration of the group's status, by when corrective or developmental activities must take place, for how long privileges are lost, or by when restitution or reimbursement must be made.

A written summary of findings, including the significant facts that influenced the decision of the review board, and any recommended sanctions will be submitted to the Dean of Students. When making its recommendation, the board will take into account the seriousness of the infraction, any standing sanctions, and the current recognition status of the group.

## Appeals

Chapters may appeal the decision rendered by the Dean of Students to the Vice President for Student Affairs. An appeal must be submitted in writing within 10 business days and may be based on lack of correlation between the action and the facts of the matter, failure of the University to observe appropriate procedures, or new evidence.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the Vice President can either determine the appeal to be valid or invalid based upon the criteria stated above for appeal.

If the Vice President determines that the appeal is invalid, the decision of the Dean of Students will stand.

If the Vice President determines that the appeal is valid, the Vice President can alter the decision of the Dean of Students if the appeal decision would lessen the severity of a sanction.

In other cases, the Vice President may call together an appeal board made up of members of the Review Board who did not hear the original case. This group reviews the tape, evidence, and/or new evidence and makes a recommendation to the Vice President relative to the final adjudication of the appeal. This board may call additional witnesses or base its decision on the materials submitted. Once the Vice President issues a response to the appeal from this board or issues a direct decision, there is no further appeal.

## ADDITIONAL POLICIES

### Chapter Advisors

In order to be initially recognized by the University, all fraternities, and sororities must have a chapter advisor in place for the duration of the Provisional Recognition period. The national/regional office of the chapter must approve the chapter advisor or the incorporated sponsor of the organization and by the F/S Advisor

The initial advisor must:

- a. Be either a faculty or staff member of the University or an alumni/ae of the organization
- b. Have completed a baccalaureate degree a minimum of five years prior to becoming chapter advisor or participated in a training program sponsored by the national chapter or approved by the national chapter
- c. Live within a one-hour driving radius of the University
- d. Be willing to participate in semester meetings of all advisors as scheduled by the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor

After receiving Full University Recognition, chapters are encouraged to continue the advisor relationship in accordance with these guidelines.

Following the provisional period, all chapters are required to maintain an advisor of record at all times. Should an advisor not be available to an organization within the parameters set forth above, the advisor of record may be anyone affiliated with the university and/or the sponsoring body that is approved by the F/S Advisor.

## Chapter Insurance

Each recognized fraternity/sorority must annually supply the University with a certificate of insurance effective for the academic year that names Binghamton University and the State of New York as additionally insured. This certificate must be on file with the F/S Advisor prior to the scheduling of any campus facilities.

## Dry Recruitment/Intake/Rush & Dry New Member Education/Pledging/On Line Programs

This policy applies to all university recognized fraternities and sororities regardless of council affiliation. It is the responsibility of each council and chapter to seek clarification of this policy from the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor should there be any question relative to the application of this policy to council/chapter practices.

### A. Dry Recruitment/Intake/Rush Period

1. No alcohol or other controlled substances may be present when prospective members are in the company of active members of a chapter as a group or individually either on or off campus in the context of a "prearranged" event during the predetermined dates of the dry intake period.
2. A "prearranged" event is defined as any meeting, party, party after a meeting, going as a group or meeting a new member at somebody else's party, meeting at a bar, at the active member or new member's apartment or house, etc.
3. "No alcohol or other controlled substances may be present" restricts any person attending any sponsored activity from consuming alcohol regardless of its availability. For example, a group may hold a dinner at a restaurant, but no alcohol is to be consumed. In addition, during the Dry Intake period organizations are prohibited from holding any functions at any establishment where the primary focus of the business is the sale and consumption of alcohol.
4. The time frame for dry intake is specific to, and determined by, each of the governing councils and approved by the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board. Each council must submit its dry intake proposal, in writing, to the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor no later than the announced mid point of the prior semester for presentation to the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board.

If the member organizations of a governing council have unique dry recruitment/intake needs that inhibit the development of an inclusive council proposal, it is the responsibility of the council to submit each individual chapters' requested dry intake plan as the council's proposal.

If a council fails to submit a proposal for dry intake dates, it is assumed that the chapters of this council will begin dry intake on the first day of classes for the coming semester

and end when pledging begins for that chapter as reported to the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor.

5. During the approved intake period of each council, all chapters within are prohibited from sponsoring any open party, social gathering, or other activity that includes the serving of alcohol regardless of location or conditions of service.

## **B. Dry New Member Education/Pledging/On Line Program**

1. Regardless of the presence of active members, no alcohol or other controlled substances may be present when uninitiated members (pledges) are together as a group or as individuals either on or off campus in the context of a "prearranged" event during the predetermined dates of the dry pledging period. (See A. 2. for definition of a "prearranged" event and A. 3. for definition of "No alcohol or other controlled substances may be present...")
2. The Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board shall determine and communicate to the councils the earliest possible date that any council or chapter may begin pledging in a given semester. In the absence of action from the F/S Leadership Board, the Office of Off Campus College will determine and communicate these dates.
3. No council shall be permitted to extend pledge activities for longer than 8 class weeks. All pledging activities must be concluded at least two full weeks prior to the last scheduled day of classes for the semester and may not extend pledging programs from one semester into another including summer session.
4. The exact time frame for dry pledging is specific to, and determined by, each of the governing councils and approved by the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board. Each council must submit its dry pledging proposal, in writing, to the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor no later than the announced mid point of the prior semester for presentation to the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board.

If the member organizations of a governing council have unique dry pledging needs that inhibit the development of an inclusive council proposal, it is the responsibility of the council to submit each individual chapters' requested dry pledging plan as the council's proposal.

If a council fails to submit a proposal for dry pledging, it is assumed that the chapters of this council will begin dry pledging on the first day of the pledge period established by the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership board and extend for no more than the prescribed 8-week period.

5. During the approved pledge period of each council, all chapters within are prohibited from campus advertising of any *open* party, social gathering, or other activity that includes the service of alcohol not provided by a third party vendor, regardless of location.

## **Anti-Hazing Regulations/Procedures**

Hazing is strictly prohibited at Binghamton University by both University policy and New York State Law. Violation of this student hazing policy may subject individual students to disciplinary action and/or arrest and may also subject student organizations to withdrawal of organizational recognition or certification.

No student, student organization, athletic team, or other University-recognized organization, association, or group shall conduct or condone activities that include hazing.

*Binghamton University defines Hazing as: Any action taken or situation created involving prospective or new members of a group, or as a condition of continued membership in a group (fraternity, sorority, team, club, or other association or organization), which would be perceived by a reasonable person as likely to produce mental or physical discomfort, harm, stress, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. This definition of hazing applies whether or not the participants consent to such activity or perceive the behavior as "voluntary". This definition applies to behavior on or off University premises.<sup>1</sup>*

The determination of whether a particular activity constitutes hazing will depend upon the circumstances and context in which the activity is occurring. Some examples of conduct that may constitute hazing when used to mistreat or humiliate the participant include the following:

- Consumption of alcohol
- Paddling in any form, or any other physical brutality
- Creating excessive fatigue
- Degrading or humiliating games or activities
- Forced or excessive participation in physical activities
- Psychological shock or abuse
- Engaging in public stunts or buffoonery
- Inappropriate scavenger hunts or road trips
- Wearing of apparel or items likely to subject the wearer to embarrassment or ridicule
- Activities that would unreasonably interfere with a student's other activities or obligations (academic, extracurricular, religious, family, etc.)
- Activities that violate University policy, federal, state or local law
- Any other activity devoid of legitimate educational value that subjects participants to humiliation

No policy can be so precisely written as to address all possible situations. When this policy does not address a specific behavior, students, organizations, teams and groups are expected to conduct themselves and their activities in the spirit of this policy and with respect for the dignity and well-being of others. As a guiding principle, any activity required of new members that is not required of more senior members is likely to constitute hazing under this policy.

### New York State Law

120.16 Hazing in the first degree is a class A misdemeanor. A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes injury.

120.17 Hazing in the second degree is a violation. A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person.

<sup>1</sup> This definition is based closely on a policy developed by Dartmouth College; See, <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~deancoll/documents/handbook/rules-regs/hazing.html> (viewed on 2/08/08)

### Reporting

Binghamton University students should report possible hazing incidents. To report possible hazing, contact one or all of the following:

Office of Judicial Affairs:	607-777-6210
Office of Residential Life:	607-777-2321
Office of Off Campus College:	607-777-2811
Office of Fraternity/Sorority Affairs	607-777-2767
University Police	607-777-2393

## GOVERNANCE

The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for oversight of the Fraternity/Sorority governance structure. The Vice President is charged by the President of the University with this responsibility and as such has the authority to make final decisions in all areas of University policy relative to Fraternity/Sorority life. In contrast to other types of student organizations chartered by the Student Association, the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York has determined that social fraternities shall be certified directly by the University.

### The Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board

The Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board serves as an advisory body to the Vice President for Student Affairs on matters pertaining to the operation of fraternities and sororities recognized by the University. Specifically, the board:

1. Advises the Vice President for Student Affairs on policy matters pertaining to fraternities and sororities.
2. Fulfills specific duties relative to chapter recognition and annual maintenance of recognition as defined in the recognition policy.
3. Establishes the general parameters each year for fraternity/sorority rush/pledging and new member intake programs.
4. Consults with and approves actions of the Governance Councils to insure their compliance with University policy (i.e. changes to council constitutions, recommendations from councils on policy changes, etc.).
5. Recommends to councils programs, events, and/or other activities, which the board feels, would enhance the fraternity/sorority community and the University.

### F/S Leadership Board Membership

The members of the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board will be as follows:

- *Director of Off Campus College* serves as chair and is a non-voting member.
- *Governance Council President* or designee selected by each council, IFC, PC, NPHC, LGC, AGC, & MGFC are voting members.
- *Fraternity/Sorority Advisor*-professional staff member holding the advisor position, is a voting member.
- *Provost Appointments* (2)-usually an academic administrator, appointed directly by the Provost, are voting members.

- *Residential Life Appointment*-one residential life staff member, appointed by the Director of Residential Life, is a voting member.
- *Off Campus College Appointment*- one OCC staff person, appointed by the OCC Director, is a voting member.

All appointments shall be standing for the period of time determined by the constituency that the member represents (i.e. term of office, status of employment, designated term, etc.).

### Governance Councils

The governance councils are recognized by the University as the duly constituted student government component of the fraternity/sorority system. Each council is structured so as to meet the needs of its constituent organizations. Those councils currently recognized are:

- *The Inter-fraternity Council* – those chapters that are members of National Inter-Fraternity Council
- *The Panhellenic Council* – those chapters that are members of the National Panhellenic Council.
- *The National Pan-Hellenic Council* – those chapters that are members of the National Pan-Hellenic Conference.
- *The Latino Greek Council* – those chapters that are members of the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations, Inc.
- *The Asian Greek Council* - Represents those national, regional, and local multicultural Asian-interest fraternities and sororities not nationally affiliated with one of the other council groups.
- *The Multicultural Greek and Fraternal Council* – Represents national, regional, and local multicultural interest groups not nationally affiliated with one of the other council groups.

### Council Responsibilities

Each council is responsible for the following:

1. Governing the activities of the member organizations within the boundaries of the council's constitution and bylaws.
2. Establishing new member intake and education programs within the parameters established by the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board
3. Establishing the process and criteria for accepting new organizations to their councils in accordance with University recognition guidelines.
4. Defining the purpose, goals and mission of the council.

In addition to these responsibilities, Councils may:

1. Sponsor programs within University policies and guidelines.
2. Recommend policy changes to the F/S Leadership Board.
3. Bring charges of violations of its constitution and policies to the Fraternity/Sorority Review Board through the Director of Off Campus College. Violations of rush and/or new member intake provisions established by each council may be adjudicated within the council so long as they allow for appropriate due process considerations and are handled in accordance with written procedures.

### Officer Eligibility

No one will be allowed to hold an officer position on ANY council or will be recognized as a chapter president if the individual does not remain in good academic standing with the university.

In addition, if a council officer's organization is placed on summary suspension, loses recognition by their national/regional headquarters or the University, that individual will not be able to complete their term of office until their chapter's recognition status has changed.

### ***AMENDMENTS OR ALTERATIONS***

Recommendations for amendments to or alterations of this document may originate with an individual fraternity or sorority, the fraternity/sorority governance system, Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board, or the Office of Off Campus College. The Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board shall review suggested amendments or alterations to these policies. Suggestions for changes in this document will be prepared by the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board and submitted to the Vice President for Student Affairs for recommendation to the President.

The Vice President for Student Affairs shall issue any amendments or alterations to this University policy in writing. Notice of changes will be delivered to each recognized chapter, the Fraternity/Sorority governance system, and the Student Association.

Revised 7/1/08