

# Virginia Commonwealth University

## Special Provisions for Fraternities and Sororities

(As stated in the VCU University Student Commons & Activities Policy Book)

### 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Official registration of men's and women's fraternities and sororities will be conferred by the University Student Commons and Activities (USCA) as part of the process of registering all student organizations on the Monroe Park Campus.

### 2.0 Procedures

Fraternities and Sororities must also meet the following conditions:

- 2.1 Fraternities and sororities must meet all the conditions for the registration of a student organization as defined in the "*Procedures for Registered Student Organizations on the Monroe Park Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University.*"
- 2.2 Each fraternity is expected to maintain membership in one of the established campus governing councils, as applicable: College Panhellenic Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, or Interfraternity Council.
  - 2.2.1 If an inter/national organization does not fall under the provision of these governing councils, they may be under the administrative guidance of the Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Team at VCU until an appropriate governing body is formed.
- 2.3 Each fraternity or sorority seeking registration must be in good standing with its inter/national organization. All local fraternities may be required, as a condition of registration, to adopt standards equivalent to those of the inter/national organizations.
- 2.4 Each fraternity seeking official University recognition must place a copy of its inter/national and local governing documents on file with USC&A. These documents will be kept in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Groups previously identified to the University by their /international organizations as being strictly prohibited from filing their constitutive documents will provide them for review at the time of seeking Official Recognition, and will make them available to the University upon request at any future time. The governing documents shall include (if they exist):
  - 2.4.1 Inter/National Constitution and Bylaws.
  - 2.4.2 Inter/National Standing Rules and Policies.
  - 2.4.3 Local chapter Bylaws, Operating Procedures, and Chapter Code of Conduct.
  - 2.4.4 Local Articles of Incorporation (if they exist).
  - 2.4.5 Copies of the above documents, when revised, are to be promptly filed.
- 2.5 Each fraternity and sorority must adhere to the provisions of its governing documents.
- 2.6 Each fraternity and sorority will meet at least once a semester with a university designee to discuss chapter issues.
- 2.7 Each fraternity and sorority will follow the expectations stated in the *Shared Standards Agreement for Fraternities and Sororities at Virginia Commonwealth University.*

- 2.8 The chapter's facility (chapter house, residence, chapter room, lodge, or meeting area), if any, must be safe and provide a healthy living environment, including, but not limited to, adequate refuse collection, property upkeep and maintenance, and satisfaction of building, zoning, and safety codes as required by local fire, health, and governmental agencies. This provision includes, but is not limited to, the requirement that appropriate government agencies (e.g., Fire Department, Department of Health Services) are asked to perform regular inspections on an annual basis and certify that each facility complies with applicable laws and regulations under their respective jurisdictions.
- 2.8.1 Each fraternity and sorority must annually file a current certificate of liability insurance coverage with USC&A. Organizations which do not have continuous year round coverage must file a certificate of insurance showing proof of liability coverage on an event-by-event basis.
- 2.9 Each fraternity and sorority is expected to conduct its business practices in a lawful and ethical manner, maintaining fair personnel practices and conducting its fiscal affairs in accordance with generally accepted practices.
- 2.10 Each fraternity and sorority shall establish, maintain, and comply with a well-defined code of conduct, and shall ensure that all of its members have a working understanding of the code of conduct. The fraternity or sorority shall have an internal judicial system to enforce this code. The University must receive an annual copy of this code of conduct if it is not clearly included in the organization's constitution/bylaws.
- 2.11 Each fraternity and sorority shall establish and maintain a program for the academic advancement of each of its members and shall designate a person to maintain accurate membership rosters, receive chapter grade reports, and act as a liaison to USC&A.
- 2.12 The University may periodically require fraternities and sororities to demonstrate that the provisions of this document have been met. However, the University assumes no responsibility or liability for enforcing compliance, which is the sole responsibility of each fraternity.

### **3.0 Applicable University services**

- 3.1 Fraternities and sororities which agree to and abide by the aforementioned provisions and regulations for official recognition, and are in good standing (i.e., not subject to any sanction imposed by their inter/national organization, campus governing council or USC&A which restricts eligibility), are eligible to receive the following services from the University:
- 3.1.1 Advice and counsel, as well as referrals and resources, will be offered in the areas of chapter development and programming, leadership development, personal safety and risk management, alcohol and substance use and abuse, sexual assault and abuse, stress management, eating disorders, etc.
- 3.1.2 Additional assistance and counsel may be available in the areas of chapter governance; judicial concerns; interpreting University policies, procedures and regulations; providing information on state and municipal law as they relate to membership activities (e.g., hazing); educational and social programming; general fiscal matters; emergency preparedness; etc.
- 3.1.3 The University will provide, upon request and within applicable University policy and law, such services as maintaining membership records, computing fraternity grade point averages and standings, as well as placing holds on the records of financially delinquent chapter members.
- 3.1.4 The governing councils shall be permitted to develop and maintain a system for adjudicating violations of University policies and procedures by fraternities under the direction of the University Student Commons and Activities staff responsible for student organization judicial action. All activity and decisions of the fraternity judicial committees shall be subject to review and final authority of the University judicial system for student organizations.

#### **4.0**    **Definitions**

- 4.1    Fraternity: an organization which operates under the provisions of Title IX of the educational Amendments and IRS Code Title 26, 501.c.7 and which it permitted to exclusively admit men. (Note: some women’s organizations are legally a “fraternity” but for VCU purposes fraternity refers to men’s organizations.)
- 4.2    Sorority: an organization which operates under the provisions of Title IX of the educational Amendments and IRS Code 501.c.7 and which it permitted to exclusively admit women.
- 4.3    Local Fraternity or Sorority: an organization which operates under the provisions of Title IX of the educational Amendments and IRS Code 501.c.7 but which does not belong to a national or international governing organization.
- 4.4    Risk Management: or the purposes of this document and interpretations of policies, practices and judicial action, the definition of risk management and it component elements shall be that of the most recent version of the FIPG, Inc. Risk Management Policy.

#### **5.0**    **References**

- 5.1    Procedures for Registered Student organizations on the Monroe Park Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University
- 5.2    Rights and Responsibilities of Registered Student organizations on the Monroe Park Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University

#### **6.0**    **Approvals and Revisions**

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