Fraternity and Sorority Community at Northeastern University

Northeastern University recognizes the positive contributions that fraternities and sororities make to the University community. The fraternity and sorority community at Northeastern University seeks to provide opportunities for students to serve the community, cultivate leadership skills, engage in campus life, encourage academic excellence, and support a diverse community. We believe all of these endeavors enhance the collegiate experience of undergraduates while also contributing positively to the Northeastern University community as a whole. The intention of this document is to articulate the commitment Northeastern University has to fraternities and sororities and the rights and responsibilities held by fraternities and sororities at Northeastern University to further enhance the growth and development of members and the overall fraternal community.

The fraternity and sorority community at Northeastern University is composed of several relationships. These include but are not limited to: the Boston community, the University, each chapter, their inter/national or local organizations, alumni/ae, and the Interfraternity Council (IFC), Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and Panhellenic Council respectively. Along with the privilege of being a recognized fraternity or sorority comes a responsibility to adhere to all Commonwealth of Massachusetts and federal laws, Northeastern University policies, particularly those listed in the Student Organization Handbook and the Code of Student Conduct. These policies, as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and federal laws, supercede the rules and procedures of fraternity and sorority chapters, their alumni/ae corporations, and their inter/national or local organizations. Fraternity and sorority chapters that are unable to operate within these policies and/or laws or adhere to guidelines will lose or be denied recognition as a student organization at Northeastern University. Recognition is needed in order to operate as a student organization at the University. Chapters and individual members are representatives of Northeastern University and the fraternity and sorority community at all times and have the duty to represent both favorably. An important way of accomplishing this objective is to abide by the standards and responsibilities set forth in this document.

ARTICLE I: University Commitment to Fraternities and Sororities

In consideration of the commitment to fraternity and sorority life, Northeastern University will provide the following privileges/services to fully recognized fraternal organizations & governing councils in order to foster their growth and development:

A. use of the Northeastern University name
B. access to Northeastern University owned facilities
C. ability to participate in campus-wide events
D. chapter advising services from the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office
E. program advising services from Student Activities and the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office
F. access to cash and/or budget accounts from the Student Activities Business Office (SABO) and use of the services of this office
G. access to SAF money/funds as outlined in the Finance Board manual
H. utilizing the University’s tax exempt status as appropriate
I. access to other campus offices and services as needed and available
J. posting and advertising privileges including a banner in the Curry Student Center
K. support of recruitment/intake events and initiatives
L. access to a University hosted website
M. use of the Resource Room area and a mailbox in 434 CSC
N. assistance with gathering academic and other statistical data pertaining to organizations or members as required
O. leadership training and educational programming for the purpose of creating an informed, educated, cohesive, and prepared community of fraternity and sorority leaders
P. advocacy on behalf of the fraternity and sorority community and serve as a liaison among constituencies
Q. consultation with representatives of inter/national organizations, advisors, parents, and alumni/ae for the purpose of strengthening relationships and offering advice on sound chapter and risk management practices and leadership development within chapters

ARTICLE II: The Expansion and Colonization Process

A. Local organizations
   Effective January 1994, no local organization may be recognized at Northeastern University. This policy does not apply to those local organizations recognized prior to January 1994, however if a local organization is removed from campus they are not allowed to return to campus without the sponsorship of an inter/national organization.

B. Inter/national fraternal organizations
   Any inter/national fraternal organization wishing to be recognized as a colony and subsequent chapter at Northeastern University must adhere to the following guidelines:
   1. The inter/national headquarters and/or representative of the campus interest group must contact the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office to discuss the possibility of colonization on campus. The office will contact the appropriate governing council (IFC/MGC/NPHC/Panhellenic) to determine if there is an interest in expansion.
   2. In the case of Panhellenic extension, a vote of the chapter delegates is required in order to open the campus up for extension. Please refer to the Panhellenic Constitution and bylaws as well as the National Panhellenic Conference’s Manual of Information for specific details.
   3. If the appropriate governing body (IFC/MGC/NPHC) has an interest in expansion at the time of the request, the interested fraternal organization will be required to submit a letter of intent, anti-hazing form, certificate of liability insurance, risk management policy (hazing, alcohol and other drugs and sexual assault), constitution, and student organization-related paperwork.
   4. The group will then begin to work with their governing council to gain full recognition. Each council has a unique process. Please refer to appropriate governing council for the details of the process.
   5. Interest groups/chapters must secure a full-time Northeastern faculty or staff member as an advisor prior to approval for recognition/reactivation. Groups must also provide the name of an inter/national contact person responsible for the organization.
   6. Interest groups/chapters must be knowledgeable of and adhere to the policies and guidelines in the Code of Student Conduct, Student Organization Handbook, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and federal laws, Northeastern’s Fraternity/Sorority Relationship Statement, and the policies written by the governing council.
   7. Interest groups/chapters not currently recognized on campus may co-sponsor educational or philanthropic events only with other fully recognized student organizations on campus. The fully recognized group, however, must secure space and act as the primary contact for the event. Finance Board funding may not be secured by organizations that are not recognized.
   8. Once fully recognized/reactivated, organizations will be expected to participate in student organization training sessions, Finance Board Treasurers’ workshops, leadership trainings and programs as offered.
   9. Interest groups/chapters must notify the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office concerning any recruitment/intake efforts that they may be planning. A list of events, dates, times, and locations must be submitted prior to their taking place. Specific requirements are defined in the appropriate governing council’s bylaws and/or constitution.
   10. If an interest group wants to reserve space for an event that is not co-sponsored, the group must gain approval and work with the appropriate governing council.

ARTICLE III: Responsibilities of Membership to the Community
In an effort to strengthen the fraternity and sorority community, Northeastern University recognizes the need to be clear in the articulation of expectations and responsibilities. The goal of these is to enhance and ensure the quality of the fraternal experience for members, individual chapters, and the University. The IFC, MGC, NPHC, and Panhellenic Council are charged with ensuring that chapters are meeting the standards set forth below.

A. We set high values and standards

1. Chapters must follow all Northeastern University policies, including those in the Student Organization Handbook, Code of Student Conduct, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and federal laws, their governing council constitution and bylaws (i.e. IFC, MGC, NPHC, and Panhellenic Council), inter/national/local organization’s policies, and its’ own risk management policy.

2. Chapters must promote educational, leadership, and personal development programs to all members especially in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and brotherhood/sisterhood.

3. Chapters must meet all administrative responsibilities within the prescribed deadlines including but not limited to:
   i. Completing the registration process, signing all anti-hazing acknowledgements, and submitting accurate chapter rosters and executive board information
   ii. Providing membership data and inter/national/local contact lists to the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office as well as street addresses and telephone numbers of any chapter owned real estate
   iii. Notifying the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office prior to any fraternity or sorority organization’s plan to buy real estate
   iv. Housing must be in compliance with local, state and federal laws.

4. Chapters must follow the standard policies and procedures for all student organizations when organizing programs, events, and conducting general business. These guidelines can be found in the Student Organization Handbook.

5. Chapters must maintain a positive working relationship and be in good standing with their own inter/national, local organizations and alumni/ae boards and keep both groups informed about chapter business and activities.

6. Chapters are expected to keep inter/national and local advisors involved in chapter management. These individuals should also be kept informed about chapter activities/on-goings.

7. Chapters must participate in the governance structure of the IFC/MGC/NPHC/Panhellenic, respectively. Participation includes being active and involved members of the councils and attending meetings and events sponsored by those bodies.

B. We provide a safe & healthy environment

1. Chapters must submit or have on file a risk management policy accepted and approved by their inter/national, local, alumni/ae organizations and with the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office. A recommended resource for drafting such a document is the Fraternal Information & Programming Group (FIPG). In addition, chapters must present a certificate of liability insurance to the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office annually. Chapters that own housing are encouraged to outline safety precautions for living accommodations.

2. When sponsoring chapter events or programs off campus, chapters must utilize a third party venue that can meet the guidelines set forth in the Student Organization Handbook and have a Northeastern University contract. Members must work with their Program Managers and be knowledgeable of event guidelines and event process. *Students may never sign a contract on behalf of their chapter and/or the University.*
3. Chapters must follow University policies for all events where alcohol is present. Individual members of the chapter must understand the Code of Student Conduct and commit to all established alcohol policies as well as Commonwealth of Massachusetts and federal laws.

4. Executive board members, including the chapter Risk Manager (or person whose responsibilities include risk management), must be actively involved in chapter events and programs.

5. Executive board members are accountable for the actions of their chapter.

6. All chapter members have a duty and responsibility to intervene when others are at risk.

7. Should chapters choose to have Member Presentations, they are required to follow Member Presentation Policy.

8. Each chapter must provide a statement in writing to each (potential) new member which clearly indicates that the (potential) new member will not be called upon or required to participate in any activity that could be construed as hazing.

9. Chapters must implement a basic standards/judicial board as a means of holding members accountable for the chapter’s constitution, bylaws, ethics, and standards.

C. We recruit and develop value-centered leaders

1. Invitations to join will only be granted to full-time, matriculated undergraduate students who are in classes or on co-op.

2. Before an invitation to join can be given to a student enrolled in the College of Professional Studies (CPS), a chapter must discuss this option with their office advisor.

3. Before members become part-time students, a chapter must discuss this option with their office advisor. All members from CPS must be full-time, matriculated undergraduate students who are in classes or on co-op.

4. Recruitment/Intake events or programs of individual chapters must follow the guidelines set forth by the appropriate governing council.

5. All MGC and NPHC member organizations must complete a membership intake form in accordance with the appropriate governing council’s documents.

6. All IFC and Panhellenic organizations must have their recruitment events approved by the appropriate governing council.

7. All members must be undergraduate, Northeastern students unless the charter specifically states it is city-wide with Northeastern University listed as one of the institutions. If the charter states it is city-wide, approval must be granted by the appropriate governing council and the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office.

8. Use of alcohol, drugs, sexual references, and/or negative fraternity/sorority stereotypes will not be tolerated in advertising or in executing any event.

9. (Potential) New member rosters must be submitted to the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office within one (1) week of invitations of membership being accepted.

10. (Potential) New members must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 at the time they begin the recruitment/intake process and prior to their initiation.
11. Each chapter must complete the initiation process within the same semester of issuing invitations. Exceptions to this may be made, but only with the knowledge and written permission of the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office.

12. All members must be educated on what constitutes hazing under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts law. No form of hazing will be tolerated at any time.

D. We are fiscally responsible

1. Chapters must be in good standing financially with their inter/national and local organizations, Northeastern University, their governing council, and vendors.

2. Chapters must provide potential new members with written information about the financial responsibilities they will incur as members of the organization.

3. Chapters must follow University guidelines and procedures when utilizing funds from their SABO account(s).

4. Chapters must meet the criteria set forth in the Student Organization Handbook when fundraising. Funds raised must be tracked carefully and deposited into the Student Activity Business Office (SABO) account. Checks to charitable organizations must be requested from this account.

E. We achieve high academic success

1. Chapters must plan and/or participate in initiatives which promote and enhance personal development and academic excellence, support the academic mission of the University, and encourage interaction with faculty.

2. Chapters must submit accurate rosters when requested or changes occur. These reports will be used by the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office to retrieve chapter/individual grade reports at the conclusion of both the fall and spring semesters.

3. Chapters must maintain a chapter term grade point average that meets the minimum requirements of the appropriate governing council’s bylaws.

4. Chapters must put a scholarship program in place to support all members in their academic endeavors. This includes recognizing outstanding achievement, assisting those experiencing difficulty, and requiring a minimum level of academic achievement.

F. We make the campus & community a better place

1. Chapters must hold and/or participate in community service activities which contribute to the community and enhance personal development.

2. Chapters must have an average of at least 10 hours of service per active member per semester.

3. Chapters must perform at least one philanthropic event per year which raises money for a community service agency/organization.

4. Chapters must at all times conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of the surrounding neighborhood and community.

5. Chapters are expected to support other fraternal and campus organizations.

6. Chapter members must participate in at least one co-curricular activity or organization outside of the chapter.
G. We prepare our members for life

1. Chapters must actively seek ways to teach members the importance of alumni/ae involvement and must reach out to alumni/ae.

2. Chapters are highly encouraged to establish close working relationships with parents, alumni/ae, the campus and community leaders in order to contribute positively to their success.

3. Chapters must integrate the teachings and values contained in the Ritual and use them according to your inter/national and local organizations’ recommendation.

ARTICLE IV: Failure to Uphold Policies

A. Chapters and their individual members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Commonwealth of Massachusetts and federal laws, the Code of Student Conduct, the Student Organization Handbook, this document, and their governing council’s bylaws and/or constitutions.

B. Chapters and their individual members will be held responsible for violations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and federal laws, the Code of Student Conduct, the Student Organization Handbook, this document, and their governing council’s bylaws and/or constitutions.

C. All alleged violations of this document should be brought to the attention of the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office. Based on the review by the office staff, the allegation may be brought to the appropriate council. Serious or repeated failure to maintain behavior consistent with these policies may be investigated for their validity.

D. During investigations, chapters may be placed on “Administrative Suspension” by the director of the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office or designee pending investigations pertaining to policy violations. Administrative Suspension, may include, by may not be limited to the temporary loss of the following:
   1. Space and meeting room allocations
   2. Meeting privileges including social and campus events
   3. Contract privileges
   4. SABO account and Finance Board funds
   5. Voting within the governing council
   6. Recruitment privileges

E. Alleged violations of policy will be adjudicated by the appropriate governing council and the director of the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office or designee. Judicial procedures for each of the councils will be followed as outlined in their own governing documents and overseen by a member of the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office or designee.

F. If the investigation demonstrates a violation occurred, sanctions may result per the IFC/MGC/NPHC/Panhellenic Council governing documents. In the cases of serious violations including but not limited to hazing, assault, or sexual assault, the governing council may make recommendations of sanctions but cases will be determined by the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office or designee.

G. Should an organization choose to appeal the outcome, the process and grounds for appeal should follow the process and grounds for appeal as described in the governing council’s bylaws and/or constitution.

H. The governing councils and fraternal organizations recognize that the University has final authority in adjudication including imposing and enforcing of policies, sanctions and amendments of this document.
The governing councils and fraternal organizations must recognize that the University reserves the right to place (immediate) limitations/suspension on a chapter’s status and activities.

**ARTICLE V: Amendments**

Amendments to this document can be made in the following manner:

1. The concerned party must submit a written request to the appropriate governing council (IFC, MGC, NPHC, and Panhellenic Council).

2. The council will discuss the proposal with the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership Team and the Fraternity/Sorority Life & Leadership office.

3. If approved, the amendment will be forwarded to the Associate Dean of Student Development and University Legal Counsel for final approval.