

Statement of Relationship between Michigan State University and the Greek Governing Councils

Preamble

The Greek community has had some active presence at Michigan State University since 1872 when Delta Tau Delta developed a local chapter of its fraternity on the campus. Since then, more than 70 social sororities and fraternities have recruited members from the MSU student population. The oldest active chapters on campus date back to 1922 when Alpha Gamma Rho, Lambda Chi Alpha, and Alpha Phi first colonized chapters in East Lansing.

There are currently 54 chapters of fraternities and sororities organized under four governing councils at Michigan State University; the four councils are the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Independent Greek Council. Michigan State University recognizes each of these councils as a major governing group and values the efforts and contributions of each in supporting scholarship, leadership, service and philanthropy among the student population.

In recognition of the longstanding relationship of the Greek Community to the Michigan State University community, the University and Greek governing councils have adopted this statement to recognize their existing relationship and to summarize their respective commitments. This statement also articulates several expectations for the conduct of the national / international fraternity and sorority organizations that provide oversight to the governing councils and their constituent member organizations.

Commitments of Michigan State University

- The University will recognize the presidents of the four councils among student leader and include these individuals in appropriate meetings and activities created to keep such leaders engaged and informed.
- The University will allow individual fraternities and sororities to apply for and be granted registered student organization status and to enjoy the rights and privileges associated with this status. Those fraternities and sororities choosing to be registered will also be held to the responsibilities and standards of conduct associated with that status.
- The University will provide fraternities and sororities assistance in communicating with alumni/alumnae from the Greek organizations through the appropriate structure and individuals within University Advancement.
- The University's Vice President for Student Affairs and Services will appoint an individual to serve as an advisor to the governing councils and their constituent member organizations (the "Greek Advisor"), subject to the terms of a separate memorandum of understanding regarding the appointment.

- The University, through the Greek Advisor, will support the effort to compile grade reports for each semester based on the appropriate consent of the individual organization members and will make available academic assistance consistent with University practices.
- The University will assist with the conduct/judicial processes of the councils through the Judicial Affairs Office as needed.
- The University will support and encourage faculty, staff and administrators, as well as alumni/alumnae, to be advisors of Greek organizations.

Commitments of Greek Governing Councils

- The four Michigan State University governing councils [Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Independent Greek Council] will take responsibility for governance of the their member organizations consistent with their respective constitutions and by-laws as approved and on file with the Greek Advisor.
- The governing councils will work with their member organizations to promote the University's values of quality, inclusiveness, and connectivity.
- The governing councils will work with the University to promote student success in a safe and healthy environment.
- The governing councils will facilitate the engagement of member organizations in the development initiatives of the university, for the growth and advancement that inure to the benefit of both the institution and the Greek community.
- The governing councils will establish and enforce guidelines for recruitment, expansion and academic standards and will administer these guideline in accordance with the standards and directions set by their respective national organizations.
- The governing councils will maintain an appropriate conduct/judicial process to address issues arising among and between members and organizations for which they are responsible.
- The governing councils will coordinate their efforts with the Greek Advisor to manage member fraternities and sororities so as to ensure active participation in programs and activities.
- The governing councils will establish a structure for the interaction of the councils' leadership in order to promote Greek unity and collaboration.
- The governing councils will promote the Greek ideals of scholarship, leadership, service, social engagement and philanthropy.

- The governing councils will work to ensure coordination with other student organizations and governing groups in the interest of maintaining harmonious campus culture and student programming.

Expectations for National/International Fraternity and Sorority Organizations

- The national/international organizations will monitor their respective chapters' adherence to the relevant constitution, by-laws and other governing documents.
- The national/international organizations will assist the University and governing councils in resolving conduct or performance issues involving their chapters at Michigan State University in a mutually beneficial spirit.
- The national/international organizations will communicate with the Greek Advisor in a partnership for the betterment of their chapters.
- The national/international organizations will work with their chapters to ensure they are conducting their affairs in accordance with the mission and purpose of Michigan State University.

Conclusion

This statement may be revisited from time to time in order to ensure its alignment with current practice and titles for the University and the Councils. It will also be reviewed by the Greek Advisor, in consultation with the Vice President for Student Affairs, every five years in order to have it updated and have current signatures affixed.

Signatures:

To include the President, VP for Student Affairs, Greek Advisor, and Presidents of the four Councils