THE GREEK COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES

ADOPTED:

January 2005
The University of Minnesota has a long and rich relationship with national and international fraternities and sororities. The first fraternities and sororities joined the University of Minnesota campus in 1874 and the most recent Greek chapter joined the campus in 2002. The University of Minnesota currently registers 22 Interfraternity Council fraternities and 12 Panhellenic Council sororities, some of which are among the oldest chapters of their national and international organizations. These chapters are governed by one of these two (councils). Membership in these campus chapters consists of roughly 1,500 undergraduate students. While the University and the Greek chapters share a rich history and common interests, as provided by University policy, Greek chapters and governing councils are legally and financially independent of the University of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota affirms that fraternities and sororities contribute significantly and positively to the quality of the undergraduate experience. Through their shared ideals and goals, they provide opportunities for the development of leadership skills, civic involvement, social growth, and binding relationships. Academics, leadership, brotherhood/sisterhood, member education, and community service are all important aspects of fraternity and sorority life. Strengthening these opportunities is central to the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood that are experienced by Greek members. These bonds last a lifetime and are at the heart of the fraternity and sorority experience. Members have an immediate and lasting social and business network with alumni, both nationally and internationally, made possible by the common values and ideals that are shared by Greek members, regardless of their affiliation. These networks are valuable throughout the college years and beyond.

The relationship between the University and the Greek community at the University of Minnesota is mutually beneficial. The Greek community enhances the quality of life for students by increasing the range of opportunities for meaningful participation leading to personal growth and development. Thus, in the spirit of cooperation and in an effort to strengthen the Greek community, individual chapters, along with the University, we hereby agree to affirm the standards of academics, student development, leadership, community service, housing, recruitment, and mutual support as articulated in this document.

The University of Minnesota and the University’s Greek community have a mutual understanding of the relationship that exists between them. Thus, together, they have affirmed a set of guidelines, mutual considerations, and standards that illustrate a desire to work in concert with each other in an effort to make a significant contribution to the quality of the undergraduate experience. Additionally, the individual chapters and councils recognize that the importance of their mission is complementary to and supportive of the mission of the University of Minnesota.

It is the spirit of the agreement that binds it together. Both the Greek community and the University of Minnesota agree that the spirit of this agreement is one in which the success and vitality of the University of Minnesota and the Greek community is the desired result and that the two partners will continue to work with one another in an effort to ensure that success.
GUIDELINES, STANDARDS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Fraternity and sorority chapters must register with the Student Activities Office to maintain their student organization status with the University of Minnesota and the city of Minneapolis. In addition, chapters gain rights and privileges from the Student Activities Office through the chartered status of the Interfraternity (IFC) and Panhellenic (PHC) Councils. Additional privileges are offered to the councils in an effort to build a stronger, more united community. Specific regulations regarding recruitment, expansion, and Greek community policies are established and administered by the chapters’ respective councils. The councils are expected to establish and review annual goals to be reported to the appropriate University officials. All council policies shall be in accordance with the policies of the University. Current expectations affirmed by the chapters and by the councils include, but are not limited to, the following:

I. ACADEMICS

Expectations of the Greek Community

A. Chapters shall strive to maintain a grade point average (GPA) that is equal to, or exceeds, the all men’s or all women’s GPA. Should the chapter not meet this standard during any given semester, it must document with the corresponding council that it is working with its national/international organization to achieve this standard. Each chapter has an academic executive officer. Each chapter implements an academic program to aid in its chapter’s achievement of the University’s academic mission

B. The Greek community recognizes and strives to enhance the importance and value of academic merit and success at the University of Minnesota

Expectations of the University

A. Assist in recruiting faculty and/or staff advisors for Greek chapters
B. Recognize Greek chapters and individuals for academic merits
C. Record academic performance and graduation rates

II. STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Expectations of the Greek Community

A. Encourage diverse membership to enrich collegiate experiences
B. Promote positive character development
C. Prohibit activities that make its members feel uncomfortable or dehumanized with a zero tolerance policy on hazing
D. Educate new Greek members of potential health and safety issues that new college students may face, as well as expectations of Greek membership through a formal orientation
E. Annually sponsor speakers to educate the Greek and University community on academic, social, public health, safety, and leadership issues and topics

Expectations of the University

A. Provide a fulltime advising staff to help support the Greek community
B. Provide assistance with the development of the Greek new-member orientation
III. LEADERSHIP

Expectations of the Greek Community
- A. Provide campus leadership through encouragement of member involvement in campus leadership opportunities outside of the Greek community
- B. Provide values-based leadership that will benefit the Greek, University, and local communities
- C. Utilize alumni advisors and parents to foster effective and consistent leadership

Expectations of the University
- A. Provide educational programming and leadership skills training through Greek-oriented University sponsored workshops

IV. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Expectations of the Greek Community
- A. Dedicate themselves to being good neighbors through community leadership and participation
- B. Contribute to neighborhood community and charitable organizations

Expectations of the University
- A. Provide access to a centralized resource for volunteer and service opportunities
- B. Facilitate the use of University facilities at the student group rate for community/service events hosted by student members of the Greek community

V. HOUSING

Expectations of the Greek Community
- A. Provide clean, attractive, and safe chapter houses that improve the image of the community and the University
- B. Provide a home away from home for members
- C. Maintain and provide the Greek Advisor with a list of students who wish to be released from residence hall contracts
- D. Comply with state and local code laws

Expectations of the University
- A. Provide Greek housing information alongside campus housing options
- B. Work with the Greek community to see if access to campus computer network is feasible
- C. Facilitate cooperation between the Department of Housing and Residential Life and the Greek Advisor to identify dates, deadlines, and other logistics for the release of students from residence hall contracts. The Greek Advisor will communicate this information to the councils and chapters.
- D. Partner with Greek groups for long-term viability of their properties

VI. RECRUITMENT

Expectations of the Greek Community
- A. Recruit students that will support and enhance the values of the University and the Greek community
Expectations of the University
A. Provide the councils access to a minimum of three mailers for the purpose of contacting incoming, new, or non-affiliated students. The Student Activities Office will guarantee to sponsor at least one mailer. The councils will be responsible for identifying University departments to sponsor additional mailers, producing the mailers, covering mailing costs for all mailers, and coordinating efforts with the Greek Advisor.
B. Endorse Greek Life
C. Include Greek Life options in Residential Life, Orientation and First Year Programs, and Admissions mailers
D. Allow Greek organizations to participate in University activities fairs if the councils and/or chapters register for the event in accordance with that event’s guidelines.
E. Explore providing web portal advertising and access to the bulk email list serve.
F. Work with the councils to develop a marketing plan.

VII. MUTUAL SUPPORT

Expectations of the Greek Community
A. Provide self-governing, self regulating councils that share rules consistent with those of the University
B. Seek continued support from National and International organizations
C. Maintain supportive alumni and house corporation boards
D. Provide assistance in recruiting members for the University of Minnesota Alumni Association
E. Support the University in legislative affairs efforts
F. Continue to provide scholarship opportunities to the Greek and University communities
G. Maintain a working and effective alumni organization whose purpose includes directing the Greek community, and advising the councils’ officers

Expectations of the University
A. Initiate the research to explore the feasibility of adding additional staff resources to support Greek life at the University
B. Provide prominent placement/access to the Greek life website
C. Support a positive relationship between the Greek community and the University of Minnesota Police Department
D. Explore the feasibility of the University of Minnesota Police Department assuming jurisdiction over Greek chapters with regard to law enforcement.

Review Process

The statement will remain a working document, and is to be reviewed as necessary by the Greek Action Council (GAC) and to be amended as appropriate. The GAC will continue to ensure that all interested parties have their voting members appointed and involved in the review process. The Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council legislative bodies must both ratify the changes prior to adoption by the GAC.
CONCLUSION

The Greek community mission supports the mission of the University of Minnesota through providing our young men and women the opportunity to become leaders in our society, both intellectually and morally. This document has been created by the students, the alumni, the national/international organizations, and the University. Each group is responsible for ensuring the spirit, goals, and success of this partnership. The words written here will succeed if the partners work together to further develop students, intellectually and morally.

The outlined partnership is simply the starting point. The foundation has been laid for future efforts to determine how best the partnership should operate. The vision for a successful Greek life experience at the University of Minnesota involves collaboration, communication, and commitment to achieve these high standards and ideals in the development of students. Together, we espouse these standards and the values they reflect in achieving the University’s academic mission. By working together as a community, we believe that these aspirations will be realized.

WE HAVE REVIEWED AND ACCEPT THE GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THIS PARTNERSHIP DOCUMENT

______________________________________________
University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks          Date

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Associate Vice Provost Jerry Rinehart                                 Date

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Interfraternity Council President Brian Brothman                      Date

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Panhellenic Council President Abby Weinandt                        Date

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Greek Action Council Chair (Student) Kathryn Baugher          Date

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Greek Action Council Vice-Chair (Alumna) Lynn Swon    Date
APPENDIX I

DEFINITIONS

A. **Greek Community.** The term “Greek community” shall include the following stakeholders: students, alumni, and inter/national organizations.

B. **Chapter.** The term “Chapter” shall include the campus chapter and national organization. The Chapter’s membership shall, for the purposes of this statement, include its undergraduate “active” members and “new” members who are currently paying membership dues to the Chapter and are in good standing.

C. **Chapter Advisor.** The term “Chapter Advisor” shall include any alumni/alumnae who advise and/or assist the Chapter in any capacity.

D. **Councils.** The term “governing council” shall include the two umbrella governing organizations that recognize the individual campus chapters at the University of Minnesota (e.g. IFC, PHC).

E. **Faculty Advisor.** The term “faculty advisor” shall include the University of Minnesota faculty members who advise and/or assist the Chapter.

F. **House Corporation.** The term “House Corporation” shall include, any non-profit organization which holds title and/or leases to the Chapter residence, otherwise known as the “Chapter House”.

G. **Inter/National Organization.** The term “National Organization” shall include the office of the national or international governing organization for the Chapter and its affiliated chapters (commonly known as Headquarters).

H. **Alumni.** The term “Alumni” shall include all graduate members of the campus’ chapter and other chapters of its National Organizations.

I. **Greek Advisors.** The term “Greek Advisor” shall include the persons who are employed by the University to advise and/or assist the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Council (PHC).

J. **Greek Action Council (GAC).** The coordinating unit between the University of Minnesota, the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, the Pan Hellenic Council, the Greek Alumni Organizations, and the surrounding campus community.
APPENDIX II

THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED AND REVIEWED THE INFORMATION WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT (DATE OF REVIEW IN PARENTHESIS):

A. The Greek Action Council, Greek community, University of Minnesota (October 2004)
B. The Greek Alumni, Greek community, University of Minnesota (September 2004)
C. The Interfraternity Council, Greek community, University of Minnesota (October 2004)
E. The North-American Interfraternity Conference Executive Directors (October 2004)
F. The Office of Admissions, University of Minnesota (August 2004)
G. The Office of the General Council, University of Minnesota (August 2004)
H. The Office of Housing and Residential Life, University of Minnesota (August 2004)
I. The Office of the President, University of Minnesota (January 2005)
J. The Office for Student Affairs, University of Minnesota (August 2004)
K. The Panhellenic Council, Greek community, University of Minnesota (September 2004)
L. The Student Activities Office, University of Minnesota (August 2004)
M. The individual chapters of the Greek community at the University of Minnesota:
   (October 2004)
   a. Sororities:
      i. Inter/national members: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Phi, Delta Gamma, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Pi Beta Phi
      ii. Associate members: Lambda Delta Phi, Alpha Sigma Kappa, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi
   b. Fraternities:
      i. Inter/national members: Alpha Delta Phi, Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Tau Omega, Beta Theta Pi, Chi Psi, Delta Chi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Tau Delta, Delta Upsilon, FarmHouse, Kappa Sigma, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Sigma Kappa, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Mu, Sigma Chi, Sigma Nu, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Triangle, Tau Kappa Epsilon
      ii. Associate member: Omega Nu Alpha
APPENDIX III

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, 2003-2004

Brent Decker, Greek Action Council Representative (2003)
Carol Warren, Sorority Alumnae Representative
Chad Ellsworth, University Representative, Student Activities Office
Christina Magnuson, Panhellenic Council President (2004)
David McLaughlin, Greek Action Council Representative
Doug Carlson, Fraternity Alumni Representative
Jerry Rinehart, University Representative, Office for Student Affairs
Jim Turman, University Representative, Office for Student Affairs
Kara Fresk, Sorority Alumnae Representative
Kristin Johnson, Sorority Presidents Representative (2004)
Kristin Larson, Sorority Presidents Representative (2003)
Lynn Holleran, University Representative, Office of the President
Mandi Sauro, University Representative, Office of the President, Acting as Chair
Paul DeBettignies, Fraternity Alumni Representative
Tony Diggs, University Representative, Student Activities Office
Travis Fischer, Fraternity Presidents Representative (2004)

Signatories who were not members of the committee:
Abby Weinandt, Panhellenic Council President (2005)
Brian Brothman, Interfraternity Council President (2005)
Kathryn Baugher, Greek Action Council Chair (2005)
Lynn Swon, Greek Action Council Co-Chair (2005)