

Greek Life Expansion Process

Greek Life at Georgia State University is vibrant and creates an exciting culture for campus life. Fraternity and sorority leaders and university administrators recognize the interest in expanding the Georgia State University Greek community. In order to effectively manage this expansion, the Greek Life Expansion Committee sets forth the following guidelines for interested organizations.

I. Greek Life Expansion Committee

- A. Purpose of the Greek Life Expansion Committee: The Greek Life Expansion Committee is responsible for determining the readiness and need for expansion based on Greek Life trends (chapter size and health), university enrollment statistics, community needs and the best interest of Georgia State University students.
- B. Membership of Committee:
 1. President or representative from each Greek Governing Council (Interfraternity Council - IFC, Multicultural Greek Council – MGC, National Pan-Hellenic Council – NPHC or Panhellenic Council – PC); hereafter referred to as Council
 2. Coordinator of Greek Life
 3. Senior Coordinator for Student Involvement
 4. University staff member appointed by the Director of Student Involvement
 5. Director of Student Involvement, ex-officio member
- C. Definition of Expansion: Expansion involves inviting and facilitating inter/national fraternities and sororities to establish chapters on Georgia State University’s campus. Expansion is encouraged when a need exists or an inter/national fraternity or sorority requests to bring an additional social Greek organization to campus and the addition of an organization is recommended by the IFC, MGC, NPHC or PC.
- D. Duties of the Greek Life Expansion Committee:
 1. Assist Councils (IFC, MGC, NPHC and PC) in determining if their Council can support an additional Social Greek organization at the beginning of each calendar year
 2. Review the Expansion Packet from the inter/national organization and forward to the respective Council
 3. Attend the inter/national organization’s presentation to respective Council
 4. Receive Council recommendations about whether to accept or deny expansion to the inter/national organization
 - a. If approved by the Council, submit recommendation to University Senate Committee on Student Life for approval to charter
 - b. If denied, serve as appellate body if the inter/national organization appeals the Council’s original decision
 5. Review expansion policies annually or bi-annually
 6. Determine feasibility of university’s ability to support a new fraternity or sorority (using university trend data)

- E. Greek Life Expansion Committee Standing Meetings: The Expansion Committee shall meet at least four times per year.

II. University Considerations for Expansion

- A. The Greek Life Expansion Committee should consider the following information to make the decision on whether or not expansion is both desirable and feasible:
 - 1. Number of students participating in recruitment in relation to the number who end up joining (only for IFC and PC)
 - 2. Number of chapters and colonies on campus
 - 3. Number of active and new/associate members
 - 4. Average size of chapter memberships as well as the median number of members in all chapters
 - 5. Chapters and colonies currently experiencing membership problems and an assessment of projected measures to assist them
 - 6. University's projection of enrollment trends
- B. The Greek Life Expansion Committee will consult with the appropriate Council when making a decision to begin the Formal Expansion Process.

III. Minimum Requirements for a Fraternity or Sorority Seeking Expansion

- A. Any organization seeking expansion must understand that NO PLEDGING CEREMONIES NOR INITIATIONS NOR INTEREST MEETINGS are to occur, until the group has received written notification from the university granting permission to become a fraternity or sorority at Georgia State University. An organization is not prohibited from identifying students interested in forming a new fraternity or sorority on campus.
- B. Any organization seeking expansion must meet the Georgia State University's definition of Social Fraternities and Sororities as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, IV., I., 1, f: *Social Fraternities and Sororities - An organization that exists to promote fraternal relationships and personal development; requirement for membership is not limited to a specific field of study, class year, or grade attainment beyond the typical grade requirement; members are not permitted to hold membership in other identified social fraternities or sororities at the University; the organization is affiliated with a(n) (inter)national organization; and the (inter)national organization has tax-exempt status under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.*
 - 1. Currently established chapter at Georgia State University, Gamma Sigma Sigma, is an exception to the rule above regarding the ability to hold membership in other identified social fraternities and sororities at the university, and shall be grandfathered in under the criteria for expansion consideration.
- C. The organization seeking expansion is affiliated with a inter/national organization and is a current member of one of the following umbrella organizations: National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), National Multicultural Greek Council, Inc. (NMGC), National Association of Latino Fraternal Organization (NALFO), National Asian Pacific Panhellenic Association (NAPA) or North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). Or, if the organization seeking expansion is not affiliated with the above named umbrella organizations, the organization must have an inter/national office supported by fulltime staff members (or a national board) and at least 10 established chapters in the country at four-year institutions.

IV. Procedures for Informal Expansion (Petitioning Organization)

- A. Complete and submit the Expansion Packet (see Appendix A).
 - 1. Packets reviewed for presentation in the fall semester must be received by March 1st.
 - 2. Packets reviewed for presentation in the spring semester must be received by October 1st.
- B. The Director of Student Involvement, or his/her designee, will review the Expansion Packet and determine if the minimum requirements for a fraternity or sorority seeking expansion are met by the petitioning organization.
 - 1. If all requirements are met, the Expansion Packet will be forwarded to the Greek Life Expansion Committee.
 - 2. If the requirements are not met, the Director for Student Involvement will notify the petitioning organization that the Expansion Packet will not be accepted and explain what requirements were not met.
- C. If the Expansion Packet is forwarded for review by the Greek Life Expansion Committee, the committee will consider the items outlined in Section II of this document. The Greek Life Expansion Committee will make one of the following decisions:
 - 1. Expansion is neither desirable nor feasible at this time. The petitioning organization may reapply at a later date.
 - 2. Extend an invitation to the petitioning group to give an on-campus presentation. This is not a commitment for expansion, merely an invitation to continue the exploration of expansion.
 - 3. More information is needed before a decision can be reached.
- D. If the petitioning organization is invited for an on-campus presentation, they will be notified and a date that is agreeable with all parties shall be determined.
 - 1. The presentation shall include all those items in the Expansion Packet, excluding those noted with an asterisk (*).
 - 2. The audience of the presentation shall consist of the Greek Life Expansion Committee, Executive Board of the Council, the voting delegates of all chapters which are a part of the Council, the Coordinator for Greek Life and any member of the Greek Community that wishes to be in attendance.
- E. Council Discussion and Voting
 - 1. Discussion of all presentations will be held at the Council meeting held after the group's presentation. The only individuals allowed in the room during discussion are: the voting delegates, Council officers and Greek Life Expansion Committee members.
 - 2. Voting may take place at the time of discussion or it may not take place until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council.
- F. Council Recommendation
 - 1. The Council will vote on a recommendation to give to the Greek Life Expansion Committee. The recommendation shall either be favorable or unfavorable.
 - 2. The Council's favorable recommendation is not an invitation to expand.
- G. Greek Life Expansion Committee Final Decision
 - 1. The recommendation of the Council shall be given to the Greek Life Expansion Committee.
 - 2. After reviewing all materials submitted and the recommendation of the Council, the petitioning organization may be given an invitation to expand. If so, the organization must follow the conditions for chartering as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, IV.
 - I. 5. If an invitation is not extended, the petitioning organization may reapply after one

- academic year.
3. The Vice President for Student Affairs and/or the Director of Student Involvement reserve the right to require specific conditions to be met in order to proceed with and/or maintain student organization recognition.
 4. A petitioning group that is invited to expand has no longer than one semester to meet the minimum of eight (8) members. If this requirement is not met, the group will have to re-petition.

V. Procedures for Formal Expansion

- A. The Greek Life Expansion Committee will examine and determine the need for expansion and consult with the Council regarding Formal Expansion.
- B. The Greek Life Expansion Committee will determine the number of organizations to be involved in the expansion plan based on need and resources. A timeline for Formal Expansion will be created.
- C. The Director of Student Involvement, or his/her designee, will contact those groups that have expressed interest and/or those groups with a history on the Georgia State University campus, notify them of the Formal Expansion and invite them to submit an Expansion Packet. Letters may also be sent to all groups that are members of the appropriate governing body(ies), who are not currently represented at Georgia State University.
- D. The Greek Life Expansion Committee will review materials and determine the group(s) to be invited to on-campus meetings and a presentation. No more than five (5) groups may be invited to present. Those groups selected will be notified and a date that is agreeable with all parties shall be determined.
- E. Meetings will be scheduled with the following groups: (1) Expansion Committee, (2) university faculty and staff and (3) the respective Council.
- F. The presentation shall include all those items identified on the Expansion Packet, excluding those noted with an asterisk (*). The audience of the presentation shall consist of the Greek Life Expansion Committee, Executive Board of the Council, the voting delegates of all chapters which are a part of the Council, the Coordinator for Greek Life and any member of the Greek Community that wishes to be in attendance.
- G. Council Discussion and Voting
 1. Discussion of all presentations will be held at the Council meeting held after the last group's presentation. The only individuals allowed in the room during discussion are: the voting delegates, Council officers and Greek Life Expansion Committee members.
 2. Voting may take place at the time of discussion or it may not take place until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council.
- H. Council Recommendation
 1. The Council will vote on a recommendation to give the Expansion Committee. The recommendation will consist of a list of the organizations, in preferential order, they would like to invite to expand on to campus. The list shall include at least one organization.
 2. The Council's recommendation is not an invitation to expand.
- I. Greek Life Expansion Committee Final Decision
 1. The recommendation of the Council shall be given to the Expansion Committee.
 2. After reviewing all materials and the recommendation of the Council, an invitation to expand will be given to a minimum of one organization. If more than one is invited to expand, an expansion schedule will outline when each organization can begin expansion

onto campus. An organization invited to expand must follow the conditions for chartering as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, IV. I. 5.

3. The Vice President for Student Affairs and/or the Director of Student Involvement reserve the right to require specific conditions to be met in order to proceed with and/or maintain student organization recognition.
4. A fraternity or sorority that is invited to expand has no longer than one semester to meet the minimum of eight (8) members. If this requirement is not met, the organization will have to re-petition during the next appropriate Formal Expansion.

VI. Additional Information

- A. After receiving recognition, the colony/chapter will be governed by the policies in IFC, MGC, NPHC or PC respectively.
- B. Organization status (e.g., Associate Member, etc.) within the Council is the determination of the respective Council.
- C. All fraternities and sororities must be compliant with the university policies and procedures, Student Code of Conduct, respective Council and the inter/national organization's policies relative to maintaining colony/chapter status.
- D. To begin a recruitment/intake process, contact the Coordinator for Greek Life for the rules, paperwork and assistance with the process.
- E. It is recommended that organizations wishing to re-establish a colony/chapter at Georgia State University wait at least six (6) semesters before entering the expansion process.

Updated 11/12/2015 MRM

Appendix A: EXPANSION PACKET

Please provide the following information on separate sheets in the same order of the format below. This should be submitted to the Director of Student Involvement or his/her designee.

Letter of Intent:

- Support from the inter/national headquarters*
- Support from the alumni(ae)/graduate chapter, if applicable*
- Identification of what council the organization is seeking membership (Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council or Panhellenic Council)*

The inter/national fraternity/sorority

- Inter/National founding information and brief history
- Proof of 501(c) non-profit status*
- Proof of Title IX exemptions*
- If the inter/national group is seeking to re-establish a chapter formerly on the campus, a history of the chapter, with reasons for the chapter's demise and plans to correct the situation should be covered

Alumni Information:

- Total number of alumni in Atlanta area
- Explained interest and support of Georgia State University alumni in establishing a chapter
- A list of specific alumni who have already indicated interest in working with the chapter in an advisory capacity*
- Plans for organizing local alumni or alumnae and training them to become a good chapter Advisory Board
- Minimum number of alumni or alumnae required to form an Advisory Board
- Status of the nearest alumni club/organization/graduate chapter

A copy of the following inter/national policies, procedures and/or publications:

- Hazing policy
- Sexual Assault policy and program
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse policy and program
- Scholarship policies and program
- Membership Education policy and program
- Rush/Recruitment/Membership Intake policy and program
- Leadership Development and Officer Transition programs
- The constitution, both inter/national and local (if applicable)*
- The inter/national magazine or publication*
- A copy of the inter/national organization's insurance policy*

Colonization/establishment procedures and standards for chartering a chapter, including the following specific information:

- Minimal expectations of colony for existence and chartering
- Expectations of Georgia State University during the colonization/chartering process
- Longest period of time generally required before a colony can be granted a charter
- Maximum period of time a colony can continue to exist before chartering must occur
- Outline the anticipated timeline for Georgia State University colony

- Number, if known, of collegiate members enrolled at Georgia State University as transfer students
- Identify which of these men/women will be involved in the formation of the colony*
- Minimum number of new members required by the inter/national organization for the colonization
- If known, the name, department, phone number and email address of a Georgia State University faculty or staff member interested in serving as the on-campus advisor*

Statistical information on Inter/National strength:

- Total number of chapters
- Total number of chapters and colonies in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina
- Total number of colonizations during the past five (5) years, including where, number chartered, number failed (reasons behind closures)
- Total number of initiated members
- Total number of colonizations anticipated this year and where, including timeline for founding each
- The number of chapters lost during the last three (3) years, including where, when and why
- Average size of chapters on campuses similar to Georgia State University

Information on inter/national support and assistance

- Description of inter/national staff assistance to colonies and established chapters (e.g., while a colony, after chartering, etc.)
- Description of conventions, leadership schools or programs available to colony members
- National expansion budget and percentage allotted to Georgia State University group*
- A summary of the organizational structure of the organization at the chapter and inter/national levels

Local purposes and goals, including a description of how these goals were formulated:

- Short term goals (while still a colony/new group)
- Goals for within two years of chartering
- Long term goals, within five to ten years

Other comments or requirements:

- Include any additional information you wish to have reviewed or considered

**Denotes that the above is not necessary to include in the expansion presentation. However, it must be submitted as part of the Expansion Packet.*

Updated 11/12/2015 MRM