STATEMENT OF POSITION: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND ITS GREEK SYSTEM.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1889, fraternities and sororities have made rich and significant contributions to student life at, and the overall quality of the University of Southern California.

The University has benefited in various ways from the Greek system. Greek chapters have provided housing, scholarships, leadership, alumni support, and academic vitality at USC on a scale and of a quality to command national respect.

The fact that the Greek system encourages members to excel as students may be its most important service.

This document was prepared by the Greek Coordinating Council in order to define the relationship between Greek organizations and the University of Southern California.

The relationship is based on trust as well as recognition of the mutual benefits that both the University and the Greek system enjoy. This document deals with practices and policies governing this relationship.

THE RITUAL

The strong thread of continuity that has ensured the effectiveness of Greek organizations is "The Ritual." The Ritual continues to focus and orient Greek participation in the cultural, academic, social life of the USC campus.

The Ritual embodies and perpetuates the personal and organizational values that distinguish Greek participation in all aspects of University life.

By adopting the personal standards embodied in The Ritual, individual members help ensure that their organizations have a solid set of standards for both individual and group performance.

The ultimate objective of the university experience, in the classroom and out, is to develop mature, responsible adults equipped intellectually, culturally and socially to become effective members of the community.

The Ritual emphasizes those standards and ideals that help ensure such maturity in the individual and in the organization.
THE UNIVERSITY-GREEK RELATIONSHIP

Legal, ethical, and moral principles govern the university-Greek relationship. Expectations of both entities can essentially be met as each (a) strive for development of the individual member as well as enhancement of the Greek system as a whole and (b) respect the responsibility and right of the Greek organization to self-direction and self-governance, while (c) recognizing the basic obligation of the Greek system to live within the ethical, legal, academic, and administrative frameworks of the University.

Basic Principles and Procedures

1. Recognition

The University recognizes only chapters affiliated with an (inter)national parent organization. Recognition involves a tripartite agreement between the University, the (inter)National organization, and the undergraduate chartered chapter. The chartered chapter must be in good standing with the other two parties to maintain recognition.

2. Removal of Recognition

A chapter's recognition may be suspended or removed by action of either the national organization or the University. The University's policy is to advise the national office if removal of recognition is being considered. Either party is expected to apprise the other of such contemplated action, when appropriate, to allow joint effort toward resolving the problem before recognition is revoked.

3. Representation

The Greek system is represented in official University relations and activities through the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Council as well as through elected representatives on the Student Senate. The Greek Coordinating Council is an advisory body interacting with the University administration, the Greek system, and specifically the Vice President for Student Affairs. All parties are responsible for monitoring the activities of the individual chapters, as well as overall Greek activity, to the end that the views and needs of members and chapters are fairly represented.

4. Privileges and Responsibilities of Recognition

Recognition implies all privileges and responsibilities as described in SCampus, the USC student handbook, and the Campus Life Student Organization Handbook, for all University organizations. CHARTERS AND MEMBERS ARE TO OBSERVE ALL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AFFECTING STUDENTS AS WELL AS MUNICIPAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAWS.

On matters of student conduct, a board of students drawn from the Greek community review matters involving acceptable standards of behavior in the Greek community, as well as instances involving alleged violations of policy or failure to meet expected or defined standards of behavior.
A chapter must recognize that actions of individual members may affect the status of the organization as a whole. This condition is defined in detail in the University Policy Concerning Fraternity or Sorority Responsibility for the Fraternity or Sorority Related Activities of its Individual Members.

5. Alumni Role

Fraternity and sorority alumni are obligated to assume various roles in supporting undergraduate members. Such support is central to the ongoing strength of the system. Such support also implies a constant flow of current information from University sources as to current issues and the ethical and legal responsibilities surrounding them.

6. University Support

The USC Vice President for Student Affairs and the Office for Residential Life review staffing needs annually to assure adequate support and professional advisement. In providing such support University staff cooperate with the national office staff and alumni advisors as feasible and as needed to maintain a strong and effective liaison among the three entities.

Guidelines for Implementation of Recognition

1. Maintenance of Recognition

At any given point, the status of a chapter may be brought under review and subject to any of several sanctions, as described below. In such review proceedings, provisions for student rights and responsibilities and procedures under the Student Conduct System, as described in SCampus, and the Student Conduct Code, and other appropriate University documents are to be applied.

Continued recognition, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereof, requires that the chapter and its individual members continue to respect and observe the governance principles described in this document and those detailed in SCampus and the Student Conduct Code. An annual recognition process will occur in order to allow the chapters and University to reaffirm their commitment to the requirements established by this document.

Applicable terms referring to recognition include:

a. **Active**: Accorded full privileges.

b. **Inactive**: Formal removal of recognition.

c. **Suspension**: Formal removal of recognition for an indefinite or prescribed period of time; chapter prohibited from engaging in any activities; may involve removal from University-owned housing; suspension may be followed by a period of probation.
d. Probation: Precludes participation in selected or all activities for a specified academic term or terms; written notice is given that further infraction of University and/or other applicable policy(ies) may result in suspension.

e. Censure/Warning: Written reprimand for violations of specified University policies or regulations; includes notice to the chapter that continued or repeated violation(s) may bring further disciplinary action, normally in the form of probation, suspension, or dismissal.

2. Rights and Privileges of Recognition

The University is responsible for providing an environment in which the chapter may exercise full rights as a student organization, including an appropriate role in student government and other official and informal University activities. Rights and privileges include:

a. Representation through the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils, with all prescribed benefits and services available through these organizations. These benefits include providing all rush support information, consistent with the Privacy of Information act.

The University recognizes the importance of working with the undergraduates to build awareness of University policies and programs. The University will continue to consult the IFC and Panhellenic, as well as chapters, the Sorority Advisors Association, and the Fraternity Advisors Association on any decision that would significantly impact the Greek system. Office space and telephone access is provided by the Office for Residential Life.

The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils are the official channels of communication within the Greek system. It is the Council's responsibility to schedule informational meetings of all chapter representatives in order to exchange current information and concerns and to encourage feedback from all member chapters.

The councils also monitor all the activities of the chapters, including rush planning, development, and supervision; provide informative and educational programming; establish and maintain acceptable standards of behavior; and work toward the overall strengthening of the Greek system.

The Councils may be called upon to provide input to various University committees and task forces on Greek, University, and community matters.

b. Advisory and general support services available through the Greek Affairs Office and the Office for Residential Life, covering all areas of chapter management and leadership development.

As the key administrative liaison to the Greek constituency, the Director of Greek Affairs and Assistant Director of Greek Affairs provide advisement, counseling, and program assistance to all chapters. These individuals represent only two members of a
Student Affairs Division staff whose total capabilities and versatility provide an exceptional range of services.

The faculty of the University are an outstanding resource to all University students. Faculty members should be encouraged to act as academic and programming advisors to chapters. Greeks are expected to build ongoing informal ties with faculty members to strengthen academic bonds, and to raise awareness of the Greek system, its programs and policies, and its total role in the University schema.

University-owned facilities must have graduate resident advisors (GRA's). The University provides tuition remission support for the advisor program.

The chapter corporation provides room and board for the GRA. Additional financial support may be negotiated with the chapter or the National organization.

GRA appointments are made jointly by the University and the chapter house corporation. The Greek Affairs Office provides training and on-going supervision of the GRA's, with the support of the house corporation.

c. Assistance of appropriate University offices in monitoring the academic achievements of each chapter member through computer records. This service must be consistent with the Privacy of Information Act.

d. All privileges accorded all University-recognized student organizations, detailed in SCampus and the Student Organization Handbook.

e. Assistance in collection of house bills and other fees. The prescribed procedure for collection is for the chapter to submit a signed University contract, with the student's social security number, and an itemized statement of the amount owed, signed by a chapter officer, to the Director of Greek Affairs. University contracts are furnished by Greek Affairs/Panhellenic/Interfraternity Council offices from the Office for Residential Life.

Upon receipt of these documents, a hold is placed upon all records of the student involved until written notification is received by Greek Affairs that all financial obligations are satisfied.

f. Participation in the Interfraternity and Intersorority Sports programs, coordinated through the Office of Intramurals/Recreation.

g. Use of such University facilities and services as appropriate and available, recognizing University guidelines, convenience, welfare, and safety in these arrangements.

h. Use of the name "University of Southern California" in any manner as outlined in SCampus, as well as other applicable University regulations.
3. Responsibilities of Recognition

As in any contract in order to assure order, focus, and function in a social organism, rights and privileges are accompanied by responsibilities, both within the organization and in the University as a whole. These responsibilities imply the need to maintain a safe, academically supportive and aesthetically attractive environment for chapter members and the general campus. Specific provisions include:

a. Academic Support

Chapters are responsible for supporting the academic mission of the University and maintaining an academically conducive environment that promotes a strong sense of academic integrity among its members. Beyond providing quiet study time and space, the chapter should sponsor programs and provide resources to stimulate academic excellence and should avoid making demands that undermine academic effort.

b. Legal Responsibilities

Each chapter and its members must comply with local, state, and federal laws, with particular regard to non-discrimination and to alcohol and drug use.

c. Minimizing Liability

Each chapter and its members are to act responsibly and avoid hazards and harm to people and property and to minimize the risk of liability claims against the fraternities/sororities, the University and/or any segment of the University community.

d. Hazing Policy

Each chapter must adhere to hazing policies of the University and the National organization, as well as to California law and the State of California education code referring to hazing. (See Hazing in SCampus.)

These policies are used as guidelines. Interpretation and application by the University in any formal review must be honored by the chapter involved.

e. Chapter Judicial Policies

Each chapter must have on file with the Office for Greek Affairs a written copy of its internal judicial policies and procedures. This requirement assures that questioned conduct or action that may not come to the attention of the University Conduct system will be reviewed internally and in compliance with due process through the chapter's structure, up to and including review by the National office.
f. Housing Issues

Chapter housing may or may not be owned by the chapter. Housing may be provided by means of shared facilities, annexes, lodges, and apartments rented by the chapter in compliance with local zoning ordinances.

A chapter need not have housing arranged to secure and maintain initial recognition by the Greek Coordinating Council.

Implicit in all matters relating to housing occupied and maintained by Greek chapters is that the property rights of each chapter must be respected by all members of the Greek community.

These facilities and/or provisions are required:

1. to provide an educationally sound and healthful living environment.
2. to comply with all City of Los Angeles safety and health codes and observe all Los Angeles Fire Department regulations and requirements at all times.
3. to provide a reasonably adequate study and living environment as well as study, sleeping and storage space, kitchen facilities and services (when provided).
4. to maintain a physical plant that is kept clean and in good repair at all times.
5. to maintain an exterior (yard, parking area, and structure) on a year-round basis that is in a neat and clean condition, presenting the proper image of Greek living at USC.

Alumni

The chapter must be provided with an active alumni advisor designated as the advisory liaison to the University, approved and functioning in accordance with National by-laws.

Each chapter must have a functioning house corporation that oversees the use and management of chapter facilities.

Each chapter is encouraged to seek out and develop a supportive alumni association. This association can be an effective adjunct of the house corporation.

Each chapter must be represented in the Sorority Advisors Association or Fraternity Advisors Association.

h. Minimum Membership

The Greek Coordinating Council and the University recognize as active a chapter with a membership of at least 25 persons. This number is the minimum level considered supportable financially and fraternally.
Toward achieving this minimum, the University will apply all appropriate resources to develop each group to meet the minimum requirement.

i. Rush Policies

Each chapter must adhere to the rules and policies governing rush as established by the University and the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils, with particular attention paid to the "Dry Rush" policy. A chapter will act responsibly and compassionately in its membership selection process and will abide by University and (inter)National policy as well as local, state and federal laws.

j. Registered University Students

Only registered students of USC who are members of a University student organization may vote in matters regarding membership, policies, and actions of the organization.

Organization advisors may counsel but may not control or unduly affect policies, membership, or finances of the organization.

k. Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils

All recognized social fraternities and sororities must be active members of the Interfraternity or Panhellenic Councils. Only the Councils may authorize an exception to this requirement.

l. Community Relations

Each member of the greek community must recognize the nature of the neighborhood which surrounds 28th Street. This neighborhood not only includes other greek and university students, but also individuals and families as well as businesses located in the 28th Street area. Good neighborhood relations are fostered by respect for others' property, taking pride in the appearance of 28th Street and the chapter's own property, and avoiding unreasonable noise levels at all times. Chapters are expected to enhance relations through on-going local community outreach programs.

m. Pledging Cards

Each chapter is responsible for having each pledge/associate member read and fill out an IFC/Panhellenic Pledge Card, indicating s/he understands the University policies concerning practices commonly referred to as hazing and the personal responsibilities implied. The chapter is responsible for developing and implementing a well-rounded membership education program that is in compliance with University and (inter)National policies as well as local, state and federal law.

n. Rosters

A roster of information on all chapter officers and members must be submitted each semester. In addition, the chapter must submit a roster with all GPA's listed each semester. Rosters are mailed to the chapter president and are to be returned to the Greek Affairs office by the stated deadline. Repeated failure to submit rosters may result in loss of privileges, or such other appropriate University action.
4. The Greek Coordinating Council

The Council functions in an advisory capacity both to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Greek system on matters relevant to the purposes and objectives suggested by the outline below.

The Council meets monthly during the academic year, or as otherwise necessary.

Council members may submit agenda items at any time for discussion.

a. Council Membership

1) Administrative Representation
   Dean for Student Life
   Dean of Women
   Assistant to Vice President, Student Affairs
   Director of Greek Affairs
   Assistant Director of Greek Affairs

2) Alumni Representation
   President, Sorority Advisors Association
   President, Fraternity Advisors Association
   President, Inter-Greek Society

3) Support Group Representation
   President, Interfraternity Mothers Club
   President, Intersorority Mothers Club

4) Undergraduate Representation
   President, Interfraternity Council
   Representative appointed by Interfraternity Council
   President, Panhellenic Council
   Representative appointed by Panhellenic Council
   President, Order of Omega

5) Vice President for Student Affairs (ex. off.)

b. Council Advisory Functions

1) Advise the Vice President for Student Affairs on matters involving the fraternity/sorority system.

2) Specific program advisement for all fraternities/sororities and their alumni and support groups.

3) Enforcement of terms of this Statement of Position.

4) Annual review of the system and decision related to expansion of the fraternity/sorority system as outlined below.

5) Encouragement of an atmosphere conducive to chapter and individual educational and social growth.

6) Liaison with all constituent groups of the Council.
Expansion Decision Guidelines

1. Annual System Analysis

In January of each year, the Greek Coordinating Council is responsible for reviewing the current status of the Greek system and advising the Vice President on whether expansion of the system is both desirable and feasible. Information on any contemplated expansion shall be disseminated in January for an advisory decision in February. Each Council member obtains the formal consensus of his/her constituency and represents it in Council discussion.

2. Expansion Criteria

The following information should be reviewed when an expansion decision is under consideration:

a. The number of students participating in formal rush in relation to the number formally pledging a fraternity or sorority.

b. The number of chapters and colonies on campus

c. The number of active and pledge members

d. The total live-in house capacity in relation to the number of members residing in chapter houses

e. The average size of chapter memberships as well as the median number of members in all chapters

f. Chapters and colonies currently experiencing membership problems and an assessment of future action contemplated to correct the problem

g. The University’s projection of enrollment trends

h. New developments affecting housing resources

3. Expansion Decision

The advisory decision is forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs for action. If a decision is made not to expand, the Greek Affairs office responds to all correspondence received in the review process, advising that expansion is not contemplated at that time.

If a decision is made to expand (either fraternity or sorority) the officers of all (Inter)National organizations not already represented on campus are advised of the decision. Response is requested only if the parent body is interested in establishing a USC chapter.

A task force is appointed by the Chairperson of the Greek Coordinating Council representing the appropriate constituency to carry out the procedure outlined below.
4. Review Procedure

The review procedure is as follows:

a. Pre-screening

b. Solicitation of Information

The following information will be solicited from national organizations as appropriate:

- National standards for recognizing colonies
- Alumni chapter advisors for the colony
- Written plan for alumni programming
- National plan for support staff
- Written pledge education philosophy and program
- National policy and/or definitions regarding hazing
- Outline of programs for:
  - Scholarship
  - Community service
  - Campus involvement
  - Internal judicial system
- Financial accountability
- Written copies of all bylaws and policies of the fraternity/sorority
- Colony membership recruitment plans
- Housing plans/resources
- Timeline for development of a colony

5. Invitation to Colonize--Timetable

The task force establishes a review timetable and makes a recommendation to the Greek Coordinating Council as to which (Inter)National organization, on a prioritized basis, will be invited to colonize.

Should the first invited group decide not to colonize, the second is invited, and so on. This prioritization will not be used the next time an expansion decision is made. Instead, the entire review, prioritization, and initiation process is begun again.

Amendments to the Statement of Position

The Greek Coordinating Council has the authority to suggest amendments to the Statement of Position for review by the Vice President for Student Affairs, who is responsible for approving amendments in relation to University rules and regulations.

(As approved January 1986)
I have read and understand the Statement of Position: Relationship Between The University of Southern California and Its Greek System. On behalf of my organization, I agree to conform to the policies and procedures contained therein, as well as to those contained in SCampus and the Student Conduct Code. I also agree to comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws as well as such Guidelines and Regulations as the University may, from time to time, establish.

I further understand that failure by any Greek organization to comply with the provisions of all applicable University regulations may result in the removal of recognition of that particular organization, or such other appropriate action, by the University of Southern California.

(Print Name) / (Title) / (Signature) / (Date)

CHECK LIST
Chapter President
Vice President
Scholarship Chairperson
Standards/Judicial
Pledge Educator
Secretary
Treasurer
Social Chairperson
House Manager
Rush Chairperson, Panhellenic/IFC Delegate, Chapter Advisor
Corporation President

7GA/K12