

September 29, 2017

**RE: GPA REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN GREEK LETTER ORGANIZATIONS**

Dear USC Community,

Greek-letter organizations enhance the student experience at USC by providing spaces for personal connection, brotherhood/sisterhood, academic support, and philanthropic engagement. Fraternities and sororities are an integral part of the campus community and can have a positive impact for members and non-members. These organizations have been an instrumental part of the USC experience dating back to 1889. Since then, the Greek community and the university have been bounded by shared goals. We believe it is important for us to have a healthy and thriving Greek community as part of our student-life experience.

This summer, the University continued reviewing the most effective ways to support students in their first year of enrollment. This is the toughest year of the transition to college life as students experience the most social and academic challenges. A number of our peer institutions have implemented policies that support first-year students by allowing them time to acclimate to the university's academic and social climate before participating in Greek-letter organizations.

Several weeks ago, I began conversations with leaders of all USC Greek councils, individual council presidents, the Undergraduate Student Government, and representatives from the national office to evaluate issues and concerns related to modifying requirements for joining Greek-letter organizations. I sought to understand the implications of moving toward a later recruitment. I read dozens of emails from parents, alumnae, and students. I also read the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council's thoughtful position statements on the topic. I heard from voices on both sides of the discussion. I appreciated the considerate manner in which student leaders presented their concerns, particularly in light of how deeply personal this issue is to many. I want to thank everyone who took time to express their thoughts.

In weighing these considerations, the University has concluded that the benefit of allowing new students one semester to acclimate to USC academics and social life far outweigh the benefits of not making this policy change. Therefore, ***effective Fall 2018, all USC students who wish to participate in Greek organization recruitment must have completed a minimum of 12 academic units, and a minimum USC grade point average of 2.5.***

Specifics remain on how to implement this policy change. Therefore, I have asked Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Dr. Monique Sosa Allard, to chair a task force composed of representatives from Greek Council leadership, Undergraduate Student Government, Residential Student Government, and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Leadership to evaluate concerns and propose remedies. The task force will begin meeting in early October.

We continue to value our Greek organizations and their role in our campus community and we look forward to working together.

Sincerely,



Ainsley Carry, Ed.D., MBA  
Vice President for Student Affairs