

Hofstra University Expectations for Fraternities and Sororities

In order to help ensure that our fraternity and sorority organizations are supporting the aims of the institution, maximizing their contribution to the personal development of their members, and maintaining a sound organization, it is expected that each chapter will engage in the following activities:

Scholarship - The fraternity and sorority environment shall be conducive to studying and each organization should be supportive of each member's academic efforts. Programs should be planned around the academic needs of its members (e.g. study skills, tutoring and discussion groups, writing workshops, career planning). It is expected that each **organization** seek guidance from their Advisement Dean, and all three advisors: Hofstra, Alumni, and National (if applicable). **Scholarship** is a serious concern of the Office of Student Leadership & Activities and is a necessary ingredient of a fraternity and sorority organization's total contribution to the Hofstra campus community.

Rules and Regulations - It is assumed that all fraternity and sorority members are aware of Hofstra regulations and State and local laws, and that they are **abiding by those standards, policies, and laws**. Furthermore, it is important that each chapter have clearly stated internal rules which are responsibly enforced by the officers. Failure to correct **any violations of the rules and regulation** when they arise threatens the continued recognition of the chapter. Please note: All social fraternity or sorority having any joint activity with any unrecognized group such as mixer, party, annual, new member education, or supporting any event is violating our policy of “unrecognized groups.”

Recruitment - The purpose of recruitment is a time for students to investigate the Fraternity and Sorority life community. Getting involved is a great way to explore the myriad of exciting opportunities that exist in Fraternity and Sorority life and an awesome way to make new friends. All groups must have a minimum of five members; failure to do so will jeopardize the health of your chapter. As such, recruitment should be open and honest and introduce prospective members to all phases of a chapter's activities and to the personal and financial responsibilities that new member education entails. National groups will adhere to their national polices, but above all follow all of Hofstra new member education programs.

New Member Education – Along with a recruitment program, it is mandatory that each fraternity and sorority have a positive new member education program. A wide variety of educational and related activities are necessary to ensure that each new member becomes familiar with the business, academic, and social aspects of Greek life. Examples of such activities are learning chapter management skills, how to recruit, and financial obligations. The amount of time a new member spends in doing things with older members is important in developing attitudes of sharing and caring and brotherhood or sisterhood. Conversely, practices

Edited on August 31, 2010

which continue because of tradition, are based on revenge or are fun at the expense of others are not constructive. Hazing does not encourage respect for others and is not tolerated at Hofstra.

Hazing, as defined by Hofstra University, generally includes any actions or situations that occurs for the purpose of initiation, affiliation, or continued membership, (whether recognized or not) that:

- a. Endangers mental/ physical health, or involves the forced or encouraged consumption of liquor, drugs, food, beverages, or other substances.
- b. Causes or may cause mental, physical, or emotional intimidation, harm, or danger.
- c. Involves mistreatment by playing stunts or practicing abusive, humiliating, repetitive, or ridiculous tricks that subject an individual to personal indignity.
- d. Requires an individual to perform unnecessary, disagreeable, or difficult acts that are harassing in nature, and/or creates an environment of ridicule or criticism.

The above actions are considered hazing both on or off-campus, and with or without the consent of involved individuals.

Finances and Chapter Operations - Financial obligation of chapters and individuals within their chapters are expected to be met with their nationals.

Exterior Relations - Members and chapters must be concerned with their impact on their neighbors. Because the University is located in a residential area, extra care should be taken not only to respect neighbors' rights to privacy and quiet, but also to cultivate positive relationships through visits. Excellent opportunities exist for Fraternity and Sorority organizations to make a positive impact through community and Hofstra service projects. A critical area of concern is that of inter-Fraternity and Sorority life relations and rivalries. Raids and property damage have no place in the ideals espoused by the fraternity and sorority life organizations. Recognizing that alumni are a source of strength for both the University and the fraternities and sororities, it is crucial that each chapter devotes considerable effort toward cultivating a continued involvement with its graduates.

Programming and Activities - Fraternities and sororities should take advantage of the combination of Hofstra resources and their own close friendships to significantly enhance the personal lives of their members. For example, workshop or discussion sessions on leadership, scholarship, philanthropy, personal finances, career planning, male/female awareness, would be beneficial to all members.

Evaluation - Each fraternity and sorority should annually ask itself whether or not it is realizing its full potential by serving its members and the University in the areas indicated in this document. Each semester, fraternity and sorority life organizations must complete a Chapter of the Year packet. In the process of submitting their packet, fraternities and sororities take a close look at the year's accomplishments and the congruence between stated philosophy and actual activities. This will be mandatory for all groups and failure to submit an application will cause your organization to be inactive for the following year. A committee of administrators and advisors will review the packet and determine the award winners.

Edited on August 31, 2010