Expansion/Recognition Procedures for Fraternity/Sorority Organizations at WIU

The Greek community at Western Illinois University (WIU) is a community of fraternities and sororities that represent various backgrounds, principles and values. WIU recognizes that fraternities and sororities can be a valuable component of the undergraduate experience. As their primary purpose, fraternal organizations support the enhancement of student learning through activities encouraging leadership development, organizational management, interpersonal and group dynamics, social development, philanthropic spirit, career development, academic achievement, and loyalty to the university. Demonstrating these qualities help them to earn them the privilege of WIU’s recognition.

Starting a Greek organization requires hard work and effort and make take several years to accomplish. Organizations begin as an interest group, move to colony status, and then finally to status as a chartered organization. The recognition process will culminate with the organization and its membership adopting pre-established standards in the areas of scholarship, philanthropic and community service, leadership, diversity, organizational management, professional development, personal development, and new/associate member and intake education program.

Recognition by the University provides fraternities and sororities with certain privileges including but not limited to: the right to use the University name; use of the official mail and publication system; use of the reservation system; use of campus facilities, administration services, and advisor support; facility maintenance services and recognition as a WIU organization. WIU reserves the right to determine the policies and practices for the members of these organizations in order to become an organization, or remain recognized by the University.

Recognition by the University includes the following procedures: First, each fraternity and sorority must fulfill its own purpose. Second, chapter leaders must know, understand and provide reasonable methods of communicating and enforcing compliance with all WIU, local, state and federal policies, and laws. Third, each fraternity and sorority must be an approved member of one of our three Greek governing councils. Lastly, the Greek community must be able to effectively support each incoming chapter which includes reviewing University demographics.

The fraternity and sorority expansion procedure applies to: 1) WIU students requesting to bring an inter/national fraternity or sorority to WIU, or, 2) inter/national fraternity or sorority headquarters who seek recognition at WIU. WIU operates with an assumption of non-expansion unless a need has been determined to change this assumption. Students and/or inter/national organizations must contact the Office Student Activities to determine the institutions current status regarding when expansion will be allowed and for which of the particular Greek Governing Councils before initiating any expansion efforts.

If expansion has been determined to be open, the following steps are required to ensure the organization is in compliance with the Expansion and Recognition procedures:

**Step One -- Students** interested in starting a fraternity or sorority at WIU or interested in re-chartering a formerly recognized fraternity or sorority at WIU may pick up an Expansion Application from the Office of Student Activities. Inter/national organizations looking to expand at WIU may request to have an Expansion Application to be mailed to their headquarters for review. The Expansion Application includes the following information:

- Expansion/Recognition Procedures for WIU Greek-letter organizations
- Demographic information on the Greek community
- Required paperwork to be completed by perspective group

**Step Two -- Students and the Inter/national organization will review the Expansion Application and determine if they would like to proceed in the process. If yes, the interested parties will submit all paperwork and supplemental materials to the Assistant Director of Student Activities for Greek Life. Interested students and/or inter/national organization representatives may request a meeting to discuss the expansion process.**

Information to be submitted includes:

- Greek Life Expansion Application
- Roster of Interested Members (if students initiate this process)
- Responses to Inter/National Fraternal Organization Requirements for Expansion Consideration at WIU
Step Three -- The Assistant Director of Student Activities for Greek Life will present all information to the Vice President of Student Services for consideration and/or continuation in their expansion and recognition procedures.

Please Note: The National Panhellenic Council (NPC), Interfraternity Council (IFC), and National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) have distinctly different procedures and requirements for expansion/recognition. Any interested students/organization must adhere to the council specific procedures. Each council has the right to determine if expansion is feasible at any given time. Despite a desire to create a new fraternity or sorority at WIU, expansion of the Greek community at WIU is not guaranteed. (Procedures may be found at: insert WIU Greek Life website page for expansion.)

Step Four -- Once expansion consideration has been granted by the Vice President of Student Services, all expansion materials will be turned over to the Greek Expansion Committee and appropriate governing council. The Greek Expansion Committee will review expansion applications and extend invitations for a campus presentation.

Step Five -- Inter/national organization will come to WIU to present to the Greek Expansion Committee and the appropriate governing council. If more than one inter/national organization is seeking expansion to WIU, the Greek Expansion Committee will determine the number of allowed organizations to present.

Step Six -- The Greek Expansion Committee will make a recommendation to the appropriate governing council on who should expand to WIU. The appropriate governing council will take a final vote on who will be invited to expand at WIU. This decision will be taken to the Vice President of Student Services and the Director of the Office of Student Activities for final approval.

Step Seven -- Invitations to colonize at WIU will be extended by the Vice President of Student Services.

Unauthorized Expansion/Intake/New Member Activity
WIU defines this as, but not limited to: campus crashing; ghost lines; recruiting or soliciting membership; pledging, educating and/or initiating WIU students without having approved organization recognition by WIU and non-WIU students initiating the expansion process, etc.

First offence violations of this policy will prompt the following action to be taken against the fraternity/sorority:

- Inability to seek recognition of fraternity/sorority as a recognized student organization at WIU until, at least, two calendar years after there is clear and definite evidence that no WIU student has been initiated into the fraternity/sorority.
- Inability to host or coordinate any events at WIU that, are affiliated in any way, to the fraternity/sorority.
- Inability to participate as a co-sponsor of any student event hosted at WIU.
- Without formal recognition at WIU via one of the main Greek Governing Councils and approval by the Vice President of Student Services, the fraternity/sorority will not be given permission to list WIU as a chapter/auxiliary on any materials, including, but not limited to, websites, chapter rosters, etc.

Voluntary Closure
A fraternity or sorority which was previously recognized via one of the WIU Greek Governing Councils and approved by the Vice President of Student Services and subsequently closed due to decreasing membership, graduation of all membership, or by no fault of the group or any of its members shall return to full recognition by following the WIU Recognition Procedures with the following addendum:

1. All outstanding debts to WIU and the Greek Governing Council must be settled prior to approval of colony status.
2. The fraternity/sorority must have been in good standing with the institute and Greek Governing Council upon voluntary closure.
3. All Greek Governing Policies and Procedures for Expansion and Recognition must be adhered to at all times.
4. The Office of Student Activities must be contacted by the National Director of Expansion with a request to return to WIU prior to any activity on campus.