UMKC
FRATERNITY & SORORITY AFFAIRS

University of Missouri-Kansas City Growth Policy for Fraternities and Sororities

National social fraternities and sororities may establish or reactivate recognized chapters at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) only through a formal invitation extended by the University. The invitation is contingent upon petitioners meeting the criteria outlined in this document. The following statement establishes the guidelines and procedures for expansion, extension, or reactivation of national fraternities/sororities at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. This policy is divided into six sections:

- Section I describes the University's Considerations for Growth and adding chapters to the fraternity and sorority community.
- Section II defines what the University considers a "national" social fraternity or sorority.
- Section III defines the requirements for recognition as a fraternity or sorority and a student organization.
- Section IV describes the benefits of being a recognized fraternity or sorority at UMKC.
- Section V outlines the processes and procedures for expansion, extension, and reactivation.
- Section VI outlines the application requirements to be considered for expansion, extension, or reactivation.

Section I: University Considerations for Growth:

The University of Missouri – Kansas City Fraternity and Sorority Affairs staff and councils should consider the following information to make a decision on whether or not expansion, extension, or reactivation is both desirable and feasible:

- Number of students participating in fraternity and sorority recruitment in relation to the number of students who join (IFC and CPC only)
- Current number of chapters and new fraternities or sororities on campus
- Current number of active and new/associate members
- Average chapter membership size and median number of members
- Number of chapters and new fraternities and sororities currently experiencing severe membership issues and an assessment with projected measures in which to assist them
- University's projection of enrollment trends

Section II: Definition

Social fraternities and sororities are student organizations whose primary purpose is the personal development of their members, as distinguished from honorary, professional, departmental, and service fraternities. The United States Department of Education has established guidelines and criteria necessary to be classified as a social sorority or fraternity (which includes a provision that allows an organization to operate as a single-sex organization.) In keeping with the criteria established by the Department of Education, the University of Missouri-Kansas City classifies social sororities and fraternities as organizations that:

- Do not limit membership to persons pursuing or having an interest in a particular field of study, profession, or academic discipline.
- Do not serve as honorary societies for academic, leadership, or any other endeavor.
- Do not permit members to hold membership in other social sororities or fraternities.

In addition, these organizations must also:

- Have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Limit membership to currently enrolled students at the University of Missouri-Kansas City

Dormant Status:

- Chapters whose membership falls below three (3) undergraduate members, but still has a minimum of 1 member enrolled at UMKC, will be considered dormant.
- While a chapter is considered dormant, the chapter is not considered an active member of the FSA community or Council but is still recognized as an organization on UMKC's campus. The chapter will not be permitted to attend council meetings, participate in council operation, or have a vote on community and council business. Additionally, dormant chapters will not have access to university funding. When a chapter is "dormant" the chapter is only permitted to engage in or host recruitment/intake focused events.
- After a chapter has become dormant, it has a period of one (1) year to reorganize on campus and raise its membership above 3 enrolled UMKC students.
- Chapters that fail to reorganize and do not meet the membership minimum to be a recognized fraternity or sorority within the established timeframe will be considered inactive

Inactive Status:

- If a chapter loses all membership at UMKC it will automatically be considered inactive.
- When a chapter is considered inactive, students, local alumni, and/or HQ staff are not permitted to engage in marketing, tabling, host interest meetings, participate in council sponsored events, conduct pledging ceremonies or initiations until the organization has received written notification from the university granting permission to become or reactivate as a fraternity or sorority at the University of Missouri- Kansas City.
- Chapters that become inactive through a loss of membership must apply for reactivation as indicated by the procedures outlined in this document

Section III: Recognition

The purpose of recognizing student organizations, including social fraternities and sororities, at the University of Missouri-Kansas City is to provide structures through which students may freely associate in a common purpose or mission that unifies them to form an organization. To gain and maintain recognition at UMKC, fraternities and sororities must agree to the following:

- Adhere to the University of Missouri System Collected Rules and Regulations
- Adhere to the Office of Student Involvement Student Organization Reference Guide Policies and Procedures
- Adhere to the Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Minimum Expectations
- Have 5 members to register as a student organization and 3 members to maintain recognition; these must be full-time, active, undergraduate students at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.
    - Chapters whose membership falls below three (3) undergraduate members but still has a minimum of 1 member enrolled at UMKC, will be considered dormant. If a chapter loses all membership at UMKC it will automatically be considered inactive. After a chapter has become dormant, it has a period of one (1) year to reorganize on campus and raise its membership above 3 enrolled UMKC students. Chapters that fail to

reorganize and do not meet the membership minimum to be a recognized fraternity or sorority within the established timeframe will be considered inactive. Chapters that become inactive through a loss of membership must apply for reactivation as indicated by the procedures outlined in this document.

- Register as a student organization no later than the Friday prior to the start of final exams week the semester they conduct recruitment or intake.
- Charter no later than two years after the original date of approval.
- No marketing, tabling, interest meetings, participation in council sponsored events, pledging ceremonies or initiations are to occur by students, local alumni, and/or HQ staff until the organization has received written notification from the university granting permission to become or reactivate as a fraternity or sorority at the University of Missouri- Kansas City. An organization is not prohibited from identifying students interested in forming a new fraternity or sorority on campus.
- The University does not recognize citywide or metropolitan chapters and thus, all chapters must be based and chartered exclusively at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. Additionally, recognized fraternities and sororities must limit membership to currently enrolled students at the University.

Section IV: Benefits

The University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) is committed to supporting a vibrant and strong fraternity and sorority community through a collection of outstanding chapters that support and live their respective values. The fraternal experience can play a critical role in the development of students throughout their college years and beyond and as such, we believe strongly that partnerships among inter/national organizations, alumni volunteers, individual chapters, and the University is essential.

In support of Inter/National Organizations efforts to extend, expand or reactivate, UMKC Fraternity and Sorority Affairs along with the respective governing council will provide:

- Access to campus facilities reserved through Fraternity and Sorority Affairs; this includes space to conduct recruitment or intake activities, tabling, meeting rooms, etc.
- Assistance from Fraternity and Sorority Affairs with student organization and council recognition and registration processes.
- Access to all resources afforded to each of our fraternities and sororities and student organizations at UMKC which includes, but is not limited to, use of the Fraternity and Sorority Council office, academic information for the purposes of membership and grade release paperwork, and marketing/promotional opportunities on campus.
- Advertisements and notices in official publications; posting and advertising privileges through Fraternity and Sorority Affairs and the respective governing council's social media pages.
- Contact information for qualified potential candidates via public email addresses.

Additional support methods as discussed and agreed upon during expansion, extension, or reactivation preparation.

Section V: Expansion/Extension/Reactivation Processes and Procedures

There are several routes for an expansion for inter/national fraternities and sororities:

1. **Open Invitation to Expand**: In the event that a governing council wishes to seek expansion opportunities, a formal invitation shall be sent to inter/national organizations requesting Letters of Intent and application materials. This invitation will first be approved by the governing council, Fraternity and Sorority Affairs staff, and/or the Vice Provost of Student Affairs.

2. **Student Interest Group Expansion:** A group of enrolled students may choose to form a chapter that is affiliated with an inter/national organization and may seek membership in a governing council as a result of that affiliation. The group of interested students shall submit a Letter of Intent and application materials to the governing council that includes a Letter of Endorsement from the inter/national organization.

3. Inter/National Fraternity or Sorority Expansion: An inter/national fraternity or sorority can petition to join a governing council through a Letter of Intent and application materials sent to the President of said council. This includes re-establishment of a previously chartered fraternity/sorority chapter.

4. Reactivation after a Conduct Sanction: If an organization receives a conduct sanction from the Office of Student Conduct and Civility with an agreed upon return date, the organization must agree to communicate with Fraternity and Sorority Affairs six (6) months prior to the return date to begin discussions and establish a timeline for return.

To assure success in the recognition process and appropriate use of council and university resources, each council may only increase by one organization per year. In addition, for the entire fraternity and sorority community, a maximum of two organizations may join during the fall semester and two may join during the spring semester of any given academic year. Expansion, extension, or reactivation cannot occur during the summer academic semester or when classes are not in session (winter break).

<u>Procedures of Open Invitations to Expand</u>

The process for open invitation will differ based on the governing council:

1. *Interfraternity Council Procedures*
    a. In coordination with the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, the Interfraternity Council will create an Expansion Committee consisting of relevant members of the council. This should include chapter presidents, chapter advisors, recruitment chairmen, and IFC Executive Board officers.
    b. The Expansion Committee will provide written notification of the University's desire to expand to the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) for assistance in contacting inter/national organizations currently not represented on campus. This notification will include a due date for any Letter of Intent an organization wishes to submit.
    c. Interested inter/national organizations will then be invited to submit their Letter of Intent and application materials to the IFC President.
    d. The Expansion Committee will review any submitted proposals. If multiple organizations submit Letters of Intent, the IFC President will coordinate with the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, the inter/national organizations, and the NIC to establish an agreeable timeline for expansion.
2. *Panhellenic Council Procedures*

   a. Panhellenic Council extension, reorganization, and re-establishment will follow the expectations of the National Panhellenic Conference's Manual of Information procedures on extension.
3. *National Pan-Hellenic Council Procedures*
   a. To charter an NPHC organization at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff will communicate with interested students, inter/national organizations, any local alumni/graduate chapter members, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council to determine the best way to support such initiatives.
4. *Non-PAN/IFC/NPHC Affiliated Council Procedures*
   a. In the event that the University sees interest in expanding to organizations not currently housed in any of the current governing councils, Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff will communicate with interested students, inter/national organizations, and national umbrella groups including National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO), National Asian Pacific Islander Panhellenic Association (NAPA), National Multicultural Greek Council (NMCG) to determine the best way to support such initiatives.

Procedures for Student Interest Group Expansion

The process for student interest group expansion will differ based on the governing council:

1. *Interfraternity Council Procedures*
   a. A group of men interested in starting a new fraternity must first gain approval from the IFC Executive Board and Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff prior to initiating contact with potential new student members.
   b. Once approval has been given, a Letter of Intent and application materials must be submitted to the Council and Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
      i. This Letter of Intent must include a Letter of Endorsement from the inter/national organization.
   c. Once submitted, the IFC will work with Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, the interested men, the inter/national organization, any local alumni, and the NIC to set an agreeable timeline for expansion.
2. *Panhellenic Council Procedures*
   a. Panhellenic Council extension, reorganization, and re-establishment will follow the expectations of the National Panhellenic Conference's Manual of Information procedures on extension.
3. *National-Panhellenic Council Procedures*
   a. A group of students interested in starting a new fraternity/sorority must first gain approval from the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff prior to initiating contact with potential new student members.
   b. Once approval has been given, a Letter of Intent and application materials must be submitted to the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
      i. This Letter of Intent must include a Letter of Endorsement from the inter/national organization.
   c. Once submitted, Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, in coordination with the inter/national organization, local alumni/graduate chapter members will work to set an agreeable timeline for establishing the chapter as part of the campus NPHC.
4. *Non-PAN/IFC/NPHC Affiliated Council Procedures*

a. A group of students interested in starting a new fraternity/sorority must first gain approval from the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff prior to initiating contact with potential new student members.
b. Once approval has been given, a Letter of Intent and application materials must be submitted to the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
    i. This Letter of Intent must include a Letter of Endorsement from the inter/national organization.
c. Once submitted, Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff, in coordination with the inter/national organization, will make a recommendation to the group on best fit for governing council.
d. The interest group will then present to the governing council's general body. The council will vote to accept or deny membership based on majority vote. The council must give rationale for basis of decision. In the event of a denial, the council must also provide recommendations to the group for future application. The group may reapply the following semester.

Procedures for Inter/National Fraternity or Sorority Expansion

The process for inter/national fraternity or sorority expansion will differ based on the governing council:

1. *Interfraternity Council Procedures*
    a. An inter/national fraternity may submit a Letter of Intent and application materials to the IFC President and Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
    b. Before contacting any potential new student members, the inter/national fraternity must gain approval from IFC and Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
    c. If this is a re-establishment, the local alumni/volunteers and inter/national fraternity staff will meet with the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff to establish expectations for the return of the organization. These expectations may include changes from previous tenure at the University, such as different local volunteers, additional support in educational programming, and recruitment/marketing efforts.
2. *Panhellenic Council Procedures*
    a. Panhellenic Council extension, reorganization, and re-establishment will follow the expectations of the National Panhellenic Conference's Manual of Information procedures on extension.
3. *National-Panhellenic Council Procedures*
    a. To charter a new organization at UMKC, an inter/national organization may submit a Letter of Intent and application materials to the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
        i. Before contacting any potential new student members, the inter/national fraternity must gain approval from Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
    b. When a previously chartered organization is interested in returning to campus, the local graduate chapter will initiate a meeting with Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff to outline expectations of their return. These expectations may include changes from previous tenure at the University, such as different local volunteers, additional support in educational programming, and recruitment/marketing efforts.
4. *Non-PAN/IFC/NPHC Affiliated Procedures*
    a. An inter/national organization may submit a Letter of Intent and application materials to the Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.
    b. Before contacting any potential new student members, the inter/national fraternity must gain approval from Fraternity/Sorority Affairs staff.

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Section VI: Application Requirements

1. Letter of Intent that must include and address the following:
    a. Written support from the Inter/National Headquarters
    b. Written support from the alumni(ae)/graduate chapters, if applicable
    c. Identification of which council the organization is seeking membership (Interfraternity Council, Collegiate Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, or Multicultural Greek Council)
    d. Identification of which semester the organization is seeking to join the community (ex. Fall 2026, Spring 2026)
    e. Why is the national organization interested in starting a chapter at UMKC?
    f. Why the national organization wishes to pursue a chapter at UMKC now?
    g. What is the history of the organization at UMKC (if any)?
    h. If there is a UMKC history, how has the organization addressed any issues/concerns that resulted in the closure/suspension, etc. of the chapter? What are the organization's plans to mitigate loss of recognition in the future?
2. Inter/National Fraternity/Sorority documents including:
    a. Information regarding the founding and history of the organization
    b. Total number of expansions, extensions, or reactivations anticipated this year and where, including the timeline for each
3. Alumni Information
    a. Plans for organizing local alumni(ae) and training that will occur for them to effectively serve on an Advisory Board
    b. Minimum number of alumni(ae) required to form an Advisory Board and who will be serving in these roles. Please include name and email addresses.
    c. Status of the nearest alumni(ae) club/organization/graduate chapter
4. A copy of the following inter/national policies, procedures, and/or publications (when applicable):
    a. Anti-Hazing policy
    b. Sexual Assault policy and program
    c. Alcohol and Substance Abuse policy and program
    d. Financial Policies (Dues, New Member Fees, Initiation fees, Chapter Budget)
    e. Scholarship policies and program
    f. Membership Education policy and program
    g. Recruitment/Membership Intake policy and program
    h. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy and programs
    i. Description of conventions, leadership schools or programs available to organization and its members
    j. Officer Structure and Officer Transition Programs
    k. Constitution, both inter/national and local, if applicable
    l. Inter/National organization's insurance policy
5. Establishment procedures and standards for chartering or maintaining a chapter, including the following information:

a. Minimum expectations of a new or reactivated organization for existence and chartering
b. Expectations of University of Missouri-Kansas City during the expansion, extension, or reactivation process
c. Minimum period of time required before a new organization can be granted a charter *(IFC & Panhellenic Chapters only)*
d. Maximum period of time a new organization can continue to exist before chartering must occur *(IFC & Panhellenic Chapters only)*
e. Outline the anticipated timeline for the University of Missouri-Kansas City extension, expansion, or reactivation
f. If known, number of collegiate members enrolled at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Please include names, student ID numbers, and email addresses. If an interest group has formed, please include this information as well.
    - Identify which of these men/women will be involved in the formation of the new or returning chapter/organization.
g. Minimum number of new members required by the inter/national organization for expansion, extension, or reactivation
h. If known, the name, department, phone number, and email address of a University of Missouri-Kansas City faculty or staff member interested in serving as the Faculty/Staff advisor.

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

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact the Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Affairs or Director, Office of Student Involvement for further clarification.

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