COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
PROCEDURES FOR EXPANSION OF FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES
EFFECTIVE SPRING 2025

I. OVERVIEW OF EXPANSION PROCEDURES

For the purposes of this policy, the use and iterations of the word "expansion" shall be inclusive of all organizations seeking to (re)establish a social Greek-letter organization at Columbia University in the City of New York. Residential Life - Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) staff will review all requests and communicate next steps. A committee appointed by the Director of FSL will review appropriate expansion requests and if the committee approves of the application, the final decision will be made by the sponsoring council that the expanding group would belong to.

Columbia University acknowledges the existence of city-wide chapters. We ask that city-wide chapters participate in this process prior to recruiting on campus.

FSL is committed to inclusive practices with all of our student organizations. As such, we do not permit the usage of the term "colony" and/or any of its derivatives (colonize, colonization, etc.) because of its historical significance within indigenous communities. Instead, we suggest the terms establish/establishment, expansion, or extension. Please consult with the Director of FSL if there are questions about what language would be most appropriate to use.

Criteria used to decide appropriate expansion requests will include:

- Viability on Columbia campus
- Number of current FSL organizations with similar recruitment populations or values
- Quality of application
- Possible support for chapter, i.e. alumni, headquarter staff, currently affiliated staff or students on campus
- History at Columbia University, campus relations, and/or community relations

II. EXPANSION

The philosophical approach to expansion aligns with the FSL Statement of Shared Values. The expansion process is required to be inclusive, empowering and emphasizing the importance of values-based organizations. When the FSL community engages in the expansion process, it will include multiple stakeholders. This is to ensure support for the growth of the community, the student voice, and proper support for the organization(s) invited to establish an entity.

In efforts to provide a fair and accurate review of new organizations, while ensuring proper support for existing organizations, the following procedures apply for the expansion of fraternities and sororities. Columbia University reserves the right to implement a moratorium on expansion at any time. This policy will serve as a guideline for all groups with the intent to (re)establish a Greek-letter organization at Columbia University.

In order to provide maximum stability, guidance and support for each organization, expansion is limited to organizations that are members of a national umbrella organization, including but not limited to: National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO), the National Asian Pacific American Panhellenic Association (NAPA), the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), National Multicultural Greek Council (NMGC), the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). FSL does not support pre-professional, academic, local, or service fraternities/societies, and are therefore ineligible to apply through this process.

STEP 1: COUNCIL EXPLORATION

Each governing council (Columbia Panhellenic Association, Interfraternity Council, or Multicultural Greek Council) has the ability to explore expansion within its community. If a majority vote of chapter delegates representing all member chapters in good standing indicates that the council would like to explore options around expansion, the council executive board should draft a letter to the Director of FSL.

The proposal should:

- Assess the needs of the community the council represents.
- Collect and analyze statistics.
- Present results of the council vote.
- Discuss reasons behind the desire to welcome a new chapter.
- Consult with Fraternity & Sorority Life, inter/national organizations and other designated entities (if a specific organization has been identified).
- Create a proposal to open for expansion.
- Target date for expansion and establishment efforts.

STEP 2: APPROVAL BY ASSOCIATE DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

The Director of FSL in conjunction with the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Life or their designee has the authority to accept, modify or reject a council's proposal to open for expansion. The expansion process cannot move forward without the support of the Director of FSL and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Life or their designee. The Director of FSL or their designee will provide written documentation to the governing council and FSL staff of the final decision. Should the Director of FSL and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Life or their designee approve the proposal to open for expansion, the council may move to the following step.

STEP 3: VOTE TO OPEN FOR EXPANSION

After the Director of FSL or their designee has provided documentation of support to the exploratory committee, a vote on expansion may occur in accordance with the council's constitution.

STEP 4: FORMATION OF EXPANSION COMMITTEE

Should the council pass the proposal to open for expansion, the Director of FSL will call for the formation of an ad-hoc expansion committee. The expansion committee serves as

a body intended to review finalist applications as chosen by FSL staff and recommend a decision to the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Life. The expansion committee, chaired by the Director of FSL, will be comprised of the following representatives:

- FSL staff advisor for the council
- The IGC Chair
- One representative of each FSL student council (IFC, MGC, Panhellenic)

Inter-Greek Council executive board will vote or appoint the student representatives.

STEP 5: EXPANSION APPLICATION PROCESS Notification

The Director of FSL will notify the appropriate umbrella association and/or inter/national organizations that the campus is open for expansion. Organizations will be notified of expansion and a timeline will be agreed upon in conjunction with the expansion committee. In cases where there is an interest group of students seeking to re(establish) an organization, the group must contact the organization's (inter)national office to assist submitting an application. FSL will provide the following information to interested entities:

- Timeline of expansion process (submission to selection).
- Campus information: community statistics, history, housing and facilities.
- Submission guidelines and desired attributes of applicants.
- If the campus is open to visits by inter/national representatives.

Application Guidelines

Applications for expansion must be emailed in full to the Director of FSL. Applications must include all of the following components in order to be considered:

- A letter of intent
    - The letter of intent should discuss the organization or interest group's interest expanding to Columbia's campus specifically: what support systems the organization has in place, and how the organization can contribute to their specified council, fraternity/sorority community, and the larger Columbia and neighboring community. The application should also include the mission and vision of the organization.
- Membership statistics
    - Current number of chapters
    - Current number of undergraduate members and alumni
    - Average chapter size
    - Number of chapters closed in the last five years and their reasons for closing (if applicable)
- Membership costs
    - New member fees
    - Initiation fees
    - Insurance
    - Active member dues (inclusive of local and international fees)
    - Scholarships, grants, or other forms of financial support
- Organizational support
    - Volunteer support at the district and local level

    - Nearest chapters and locations
    - Number of alumni in the New York City area (5 Boroughs of NYC, Long Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey)
- Program policies
    - Anti-hazing and risk management policies
    - Recruitment/intake policies and guidelines
    - Outline of new member program
    - Minimum standards for new members
    - Scholarship/academic support systems
    - Community service and philanthropy programs/requirements
    - Leadership development programs
    - Code of Conduct/Standards/Judicial Procedures
- Information of interest group (if applicable)
    - Full names
    - UNI
    - School
    - Graduation year
    - Cumulative GPA

STEP 6: SELECTION OF PRESENTATION PARTICIPANTS

The Expansion Committee will review all submissions and invite selected finalists to present to the campus community. The Director of FSL will issue invitations, coordinate presentation schedules, and issue rejection letters.

Presentations may be open to the specific council, University staff, and the expansion committee. Expansion committee members must be present at all presentations. The Director of FSL is responsible for collecting feedback from persons who have interacted with the presentation team and sharing feedback with the committee. The presentation should include the information submitted in the initial submission, as well as a proposed growth plan for the anticipated chapter. The Director of FSL will notify finalists of any additional guidelines or procedures at the time of the formal invitation notice.

All presentation schedules should include a meeting with the following:

- Dean of Undergraduate Student Life, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Life, Director of FSL, and the FSL advisor to the council of the organization being considered
- Council leaders
- Expansion committee members

STEP 7: EXPANSION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The expansion committee will select an organization(s) from the finalists to recommend issuing an invitation to (re)establish an entity. The committee must submit rationale for the recommendation in writing to the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Life or their designee.

STEP 8: APPROVAL OF DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LIFE

The Dean of Undergraduate Student Life or their designee has the authority to uphold, modify or reject the recommendation of the expansion committee. The Dean of Undergraduate Student Life or their designee will provide written documentation to the expansion committee of the final decision.

STEP 9: INVITATION TO ESTABLISH ENTITY

Should the Dean of Undergraduate Student Life or their designee uphold or modify the expansion committee's recommendation, the Director of FSL will notify the organization that they have been approved to (re)charter a chapter with the university. The organization(s) will be placed on Provisional Recognition until the entity is able to fully participate in the ALPHA Standards of Excellence, which will be at the discretion of the Director of FSL.

The Dean of Undergraduate Student Life, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Life, or the Director of FSL, or the sponsoring council (by majority vote of chapter delegates) has the authority to rescind the offer of expansion at any point in time throughout Provisional Recognition. The entity must meet minimum expectations as determined by the ALPHA Standards of Excellence to receive Full Recognition.

III. UNAUTHORIZED EXPANSION/INTAKE/NEW MEMBER ACTIVITY

Violation of this policy will prompt the following:

- Inability to host or coordinate any events at Columbia University that are affiliated, in any way, to the fraternity/sorority.
- Inability to participate as a co-sponsor of any student event hosted at Columbia University.
- Without formal recognition at Columbia University, the fraternity/sorority is not given permission to list Columbia University as a chapter/auxiliary on any materials, including, but not limited to, websites, chapter rosters, etc.