

## **SHSU Interfraternity Council Expansion Policy**

*The following procedures have been set in place to insure that the advancement of a new Greek social letter fraternity, as recognized by the NIC, will occur in a ordered and structured fashion that will enhance the Fraternity Community at Sam Houston State University.*

All social fraternities seeking to colonize and/or reactivate to Sam Houston State University will be required to follow the standards and practices set forth in this policy. The goal of this document is to ensure the SHSU Dean of Students Office and the Interfraternity Council are aware of all groups intending to expand at SHSU, and to coordinate the expansion timeline so that all parties involved can achieve their goals of expansion.

**Section 1:** Sam Houston State University reserves the right to be notified of any social fraternity seeking recognition and/or colonization at Sam Houston State University and to coordinate an appropriate semester for that social fraternity to start its colonization process. This model for controlled expansion respects the NIC open expansion directive stating that, “The North-American Interfraternity Conference, states its support for open, unrestricted expansion for all college and university fraternity systems, and charges Interfraternity Councils and member fraternities to move toward such a program”, while maintaining campus based authority over the process to ensure success for all parties involved.

**Section 2:** The University Committee on Greek Expansion will be charged by, and report to the Greek Life Coordinator. This committee will be comprised of Greek Life Coordinator, the IFC President, and the IFC Recruitment Chairman. IFC Delegates, Junior IFC Delegates, and Chapter Presidents will be allowed to observe and voice opinions at these committees meetings at the discretion of the Greek Life Coordinator.

**Section 3:** The Expansion Committee will be responsible for reviewing all applications submitted by Inter/National Headquarters and alumni corporations.

**Section 4:** The expansion process and timeframe fall solely under the discretion of the University Committee on Greek Expansion for the best interest of the existing fraternal community and the university and is to be coordinated with the applying organization.

**Section 5:** The University Committee on Greek Expansion will work with the North American Interfraternity Conference to contact organizations interested in expansion. This communication will request specific information, such as national support in order to establish a chapter, area alumni support, number of alumni in area, risk management and alcohol policies, leadership and new member educational programs, etc. The Expansion Committee will review all materials and select a number of organizations at their discretion to invite to campus to make presentations to the IFC, Greek, and University community.

**Section 6:** A formal request for colonization must be submitted by the Inter/National fraternity to the Dean of Students Office, which will forward it to the expansion committee. The request can be submitted by email to [doso@shsu.edu](mailto:doso@shsu.edu).

**Section 7:** Each organization that expresses interest must receive approval of the expansion committee before being allowed to make an on-campus presentation, fraternities that do not have the resources to make an on campus presentation will need to inform the Expansion Committee so that arrangements can be made for some sort of alternative.

**Section 8:** Presentations are organized and scheduled by the Expansion Committee. Invitations to view the presentations will go out to members of the fraternity and sorority community, faculty, staff and alumni.

**Section 9:** It is an expectation of the Committee on Greek Expansion that all Fraternities meet the standards and policies set by Sam Houston State University, the Dean of Students Office and the Interfraternity Council. The presentations made by the Inter/National fraternity to the University Committee on Greek Expansion must include the following information:

- a) An Official Letter of intent from the Inter/National Headquarters outlining the strategy for colonization at Sam Houston State University as well as support and resource strategies the National Headquarters will provide a new colony.
- b) Logistical Information:
  1. Name of Fraternity
  2. Founding Date and Location
  3. Current number of colonies
  4. Current number of undergraduate members and current number of alumni.
  5. Average chapter size
  6. Number of chapters closed in the last five years and their reasons for closing
  7. Membership Costs: new member, initiation fees, insurance, regular dues
  8. Verification of appropriate liability coverage for the colony by the national headquarters
  9. The semesters the organization will have open on their expansion calendar
- c) Program Policies:
  1. Position on Risk Management
  2. Position on Hazing prevention awareness resources
  3. Length/focus of new member education
  4. Minimum standards for potential new members
  5. Scholarship/Academic support programs
  6. Community Service and Philanthropy programs
  7. Constitution and By-law highlights
  8. Leadership/Member Development programs
  9. How the organization plans to be successful in the Accreditation process of Sam Houston State University
  10. How the organization intends to operate as a non-residential chapter at Sam Houston State University

- d) Colonization:
  1. List and status of colonies established in the last five years
  2. Procedures for colonization (potential time-line if plausible)
  3. Ongoing support for colony
  
- e) Organizational Support:
  1. List of all chapters and locations
  2. Volunteer support at the district and local level
  
- f) Resources:
  1. (Inter) National Headquarters
  2. Foundation Scholarship/loans
  4. Publications (Optional)
  5. Nearest chapter(s)
  6. Estimated number of alumni in the Southeast Texas area
  7. Contact information of a committed alumni advisor

**Section 10:** After reviewing all applications for recognition, the Expansion Committee can recommend to the Interfraternity Council that a particular applicant group be granted recognition for that semester, suggest adjustments to the applicant's proposal, or recommend that the applicant group might expand in a future semester.

**Section 11:** Upon a recommendation that an applicant has been granted recognition by the Expansion Committee, the national organization will be notified of the outcome. An invitation and preferred timeline for colonization are then sent to the organization from the Expansion Committee.

**Section 12:** Upon arrival at Sam Houston State University the potential colony must follow the procedures set forth of provisional membership in the Sam Houston State University Interfraternity Council. Provisionary Membership is outlined in the SHSU IFC Constitution. To be given provisional status in the Interfraternity Council the colony must:

- a) Schedule and hold a meeting between the SHSU Greek Life Coordinator and the Colony's Faculty Advisor and Alumni Advisor to go over expectations of Greek Life set out by SHSU. This meeting should include the expectations of the STAR Packet, SHSU Risk Management Policy, SHSU Anti-Hazing Policy and any other topics the Greek Life Coordinator deems appropriate.
  
- b) Schedule and hold a meeting between the IFC Executive Board and the Colony's Executive Board. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the colony's officers to IFC Academic, Recruitment, and Risk Management Policies. Also this meeting should inform the Colony's Executive Board of upcoming IFC and Greek events that that colony can participate in.

**Section 13:** For the Colony to achieve Full Membership in IFC after a provisional period of longer than one semester, but no more than two years, that colony must meet the expectations required of all IFC Fraternities, which include:

- a) Have a cumulative GPA of over 2.3/4.0
- b) Reach the 3 Star Level in the SHSU STAR Packet
- c) Have 100% attendance from the Colony's Delegate at all IFC General Meetings from the time the Colony was granted provisional membership

*In addition to the information requested above that should comprise the expansion packet, all applicants should be aware of the following:*

The primary factor the Expansion Committee will utilize in its recommendations is the potential for long term success. The Expansion Committee will also take into account the history/legacy of groups that have existed in the past.

The expansion is for chapters to be non-residential fraternities. There are no current plans or timeline in place to convert any newly recognized non-residential chapters to be residential chapters for on campus housing. However, the new chapter/colonies can pursue housing off campus with the supports of their alumni organizations or Inter/National Organizations.

## **Tentative Timeline for Expansion**

**Sept. 15:** The deadline for Inter/National Headquarters to submit interest packets to the Dean of Students Office.

**Sept. 18th:** The Expansion Committee begins reviewing expansion petitions.

**Oct. 3rd:** The committee announces the final decision as to the expansion finalists. The Dean of Students contacts the finalists and sets up on-campus expansion meetings.

**Oct.-Nov. 2011:** Finalists visit SHSU for campus visits to present their organizations.

**Dec. 1st 2011:** Final selection(s) are made.

**Spring Semester:** New colony(ies) begin their colonization and recruitment process