

# TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

**Title:** Recognition of Fraternities and Sororities  
**Policy Number:** 03.40.02  
**Issuing Authority:** Board of Trustees  
**Responsible Officer:** Vice President for Student Affairs

**Date Created:** October 10, 1989  
**Date Last Amended/Reviewed:** April 1, 2010  
**Date Scheduled for Review:** April 1, 2012  
**Reviewing Office:** Division of Student Affairs

### **Scope of Policy & Rationale:**

Recognition is the formal status afforded a chapter of a fraternal organization with national or international affiliation, following a determination by the university that the chapter is eligible for membership in the Temple University Greek Association ("T.U.G.A.") and may be afforded access to university facilities and benefits upon adherence to university regulations.

T.U.G.A is an independent, unincorporated association comprised of fraternal organizations recognized as eligible for certain benefits from the university.

The stated mission of the Temple University Greek Association is to:

1. enhance the quality of student life on and off the campus;
2. contribute to the educational and personal development of students;
3. enhance the extra and co-curricular programs of the university;
4. provide structured opportunities for self governance;
5. serve as a conduit to involve students in service to the university and community;
6. ensure cooperation between all components of the fraternal organizations and the university community;\* and
7. ensure that pledging activities and social functions are consistent with applicable laws, university policies and the policies of member national organizations.

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\* *These include the regional, national/international, alumni and undergraduate organizations.*

The fraternal organizations that comprise T.U.G.A. and are covered by this procedure are in all cases independently incorporated and governed. The university thus recognizes them only within the basic principles applied to university affiliation with any externally incorporated organization. [See Board of Trustees Policy #04.34.01, Use of University Facilities by External Groups.]

Recognition does not reflect the university's approval, sponsorship or endorsement of a fraternal organization, but rather confirms that the organization has met the university's requirements for eligibility for benefits granted to fraternal organizations. Recognition does not create any principal-agent relationship between the university and any fraternal organization.

### **Definitions**

1. The term “**chapter advisor**” means an alumnus of an organization who establishes and maintains a relationship with a fraternity or sorority chapter to serve as a resource and counselor.
2. The term “**fraternity**” means a social and/or service organization comprised of men which may or may not be residential, but which must be chartered by a national/international organization.
3. The term “**new member**” means an individual who is in the introductory stages of joining a fraternity or sorority. New Members are taught the history, values, and customs of a particular organization prior to becoming an initiated member.
4. The term “**recruitment**” means the process used by many fraternities and sororities to attract and select new members.
5. The term “**sorority**” means a social and/or service organization comprised of women which may or may not be residential, but which must be chartered by a national/international organization.
6. The term “**Student Review Committee**” means a committee who can make an appellate recommendation for recognition to the Director of Student Activities about an applicant.
7. The term “**T.U.G.A.**” means Temple University Greek Association.
8. The term “**university**” means Temple University- Of The Commonwealth System of Higher Education.

### **Policy Statement**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the university’s recognition of fraternal organizations as well as the responsibilities and benefits of membership in T.U.G.A.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Fraternal organizations that are recognized become members of T.U.G.A. and are accorded the following rights, benefits and privileges:

- A. Limited license to identify chapter with Temple University (subject to approval of the Director of Student Activities and university regulations relating to trade names, trademarks and service marks).

B. University recognition, through the Director of Student Activities, that the organization has evidenced an ability to provide:

- 1) a positive social/service experience;
- 2) truthful representations to students during recruitment; and
- 3) responsible leadership in meeting its obligations to the university and community.

C. Access to advice, counsel and assistance of the Program Coordinator for Greek Life.

D. Participation in university-wide recruitment program consistent with recruitment guidelines established by the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Association, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Multi-Cultural Greek Council (subject to approval of the Director of Student Activities as consistent with university policy).

E. Membership in and assistance of fraternal councils such as the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Association, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Multi-Cultural Greek Council.

F. Access to university facilities for official chapter functions at a discount on space costs and all related expenses (space allocation subject to approval of the Director of the Student Center and other departments as necessary), as specified by the university.

G. Access to assistance from the appropriate university departments to publicize T.U.G.A. member chapter functions and T.U.G.A. events.

### III. Criteria for Recognition and Membership in T.U.G.A

Applicant organizations must fulfill the following criteria for recognition and to be eligible for membership in T.U.G.A.:

A. Documentation of a currently enrolled student membership: (1) whose chapter cumulative GPA is 2.00 or better; (2) whose members are matriculated, enrolled students in “good standing” administratively with the university; and (3) at least 50% of whom are carrying a full-time (minimum twelve (12) credit hours per semester) course load. (All members of applicant organizations agree by implication to screening a student’s academic record during the recognition process to determine standing with the university.)\*

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\* *Administrative good standing is defined as the absence of financial delinquencies or other “HOLDS” on a student’s tuition account.*

B. Certification of affiliation with a national/ international organization such as the National Interfraternity Conference (NIFC), the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), or National Multi-Cultural Greek Council (NMGC).

The university must receive a letter from either the executive director or president of the national/ international organization that provides the following required information:

- 1) a statement describing the founding of the national/international organization, including information relating to when, where, why, and by whom the organization was chartered;
- 2) identification of the national/international organization's fraternal association (such as NIFC, NPC, NPHC, or NMGC);
- 3) proof of incorporation as evidenced by receipt of a tax exemption number and identification of state in which incorporated and date of incorporation;
- 4) copy of the national/international organization's constitution, by-laws and governance structure;
- 5) a statement attesting to the proposed Temple-recognized chapter's chartering status with the national/international organization;
- 6) current status of the national/international organization's liability insurance coverage including name of insurer, extent of coverage, and amount of protection;
- 7) name and address of local/regional alumni organization(s) with which the proposed Temple-recognized chapter will associate; and
- 8) name and address of national and/or local housing corporation(s) with which the proposed Temple-recognized chapter will associate, if any.

C. Documentation evidencing existence of liability insurance coverage for the proposed Temple-recognized chapter at levels established by the university, with the university's being named as an additional or named insured on such policies.

D. Appointment and identification of a "chapter advisor" or liaison who resides in the metropolitan area.

E. Documentation that the organization's policies and objectives are consistent with the university's aims, goals and educational mission, including the encouragement of students to assume and exercise responsibility for their own conduct in accordance with applicable law. Such documentation shall include:

- 1) a statement of the purposes and goals of the fraternal organization including copies of the chapter's constitution and by-laws and a description of its governance structure;
- 2) a statement of the chapter's policies and standards for the recruitment, selection, education and initiation of new members, including a statement of the chapter's non-discrimination policy; and
- 3) a statement describing the history of the chapter at Temple University including when and by whom the chapter was chartered.

These documents must be consistent with established university standards and policies.

F. Submission of membership lists, which include the names, addresses (permanent and local) and telephone numbers of the following:

- 1) chapter members (including TU ID numbers);
- 2) national/international organization's executive officers;
- 3) local alumni officers (if applicable);
- 4) chapter officers; and
- 5) chapter advisor.

G. Submission of a list of the officers for the chapter indicating assignment of responsibilities for the following:

- 1) chapter's financial activities;
- 2) program planning;
- 3) disciplinary standards and regulations;
- 4) selection of new members;
- 5) orientation of new members; and
- 6) coordination with central university administration.

H. Submission of the chapter's projected annual plans for services and activities for members with a description of how these projects will enhance the educational, social, charitable, community service or athletic aims of the organization.

Organizations that fail to meet all the above requirements may be determined to be eligible for conditional recognition as defined in Section V and may continue to seek recognition in succeeding semesters.

#### IV. Application Evaluation Procedure

Applications for recognition will be evaluated under the following procedure:

A. The Program Coordinator for Greek Life reviews the application and supporting documentation for completeness and accuracy, including proper signatures.

1) If the Program Coordinator for Greek Life determines that the application is complete, (s)he forwards the application to the Director of Student Activities for screening;

2) If the Program Coordinator for Greek Life determines that the application is incomplete, (s)he returns the application to the organization for completion. If the applicant organization disagrees with the Program Coordinator for Greek Life 's determination, it may appeal to the Student Review Committee (SRC).\*

Decisions of the Committee with input from the Program Coordinator for Greek Life are final on the issue of completeness.

B. The Director of Student Activities reviews the application and submits it for screening through administrative channels, as (s)he deems necessary or appropriate.

1) If screening is favorable, the Director of Student Activities recognizes the organization and its right to membership in T.U.G.A. and so notifies in writing the organization, the SRC, the Program Coordinator for Greek Life, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and the Vice President for Student Affairs.

2) If screening is unfavorable, the Director of Student Activities will notify the applicant organization and the Program Coordinator for Greek Life in writing of the reasons therefore, and will provide the organization a reasonable opportunity to rectify the unfavorable elements in the record. After a follow-up review of all pertinent information, the Director of Student Activities will make a final determination.

3) When the SRC refers an application to the Director of Student Activities regarding the written objection of the Program Coordinator for Greek Life and the application's administrative screening is favorable, the Director of Student Activities will endorse the organization for membership in T.U.G.A. unless the Director of Student Activities concurs with the Program Coordinator's negative assessment(s). The Director of Student Activities may then reject the application on that basis, with written notification to the organization, the SRC, the Program Coordinator, the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, and the Vice President for Student Affairs. Final appeal of the Director's decision is to the Vice President for Student Affairs, whose decision shall be final.

## **Special Situations**

### **V. Conditional Recognition**

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*\*\* The SRC is composed of two (2) representatives each from the following organizations: IFC, NPC, NPHC and MGC. The Program Coordinator for Greek Life is an ex-officio member; if (s)he objects to a Committee decision, (s)he will so notify the Vice President for Student Affairs in writing.*

A. At the discretion of the Director of Student Activities, applicant organizations that cannot meet all eligibility requirements for recognition and full membership in T.U.G.A. may be determined to be eligible for conditional recognition and membership in T.U.G.A. Such organizations may continue to seek recognition in succeeding semesters. Organizations that receive conditional recognition will be afforded the following benefits by the university:

- 1) assistance of the Program Coordinator for Greek Life;
- 2) use of university facilities for chapter functions at no discount or at the discounted rate applicable to registered student organizations.

In addition, the fraternal councils have indicated their willingness to afford conditional members of T.U.G.A. nonvoting membership in the councils and participation in council-sponsored activities.

### **Exclusions**

The term "fraternal organization" refers to social and/or service organizations which may or may not be residential, but which must be chartered by a national/international organization. This policy does not contemplate that societies exclusively honorary, religious, cultural or academic will be accorded recognition under this procedure, nor does it contemplate that auxiliary enterprises, such as "little sister" organizations, will be recognized, even assuming that they meet all eligibility requirements.

### **Procedures**

A. T.U.G.A. endorses the concept of effective self-governance as the fundamental means of regulating fraternal organizations and as consistent with the educational goal of encouraging students to assume and exercise responsibility for their own conduct. Member fraternities and sororities should, therefore, retain as much authority to govern their own affairs as possible.

Inherent in this concept of effective self-governance is the principle of collective responsibility, which provides the Greek governing councils (i.e., IFC, PA, NPHC, MGC) with oversight responsibility for the individual and collective actions of its member organizations. Accordingly, the applicable Greek governing council is empowered and committed to impose sanctions up to and including suspension of member organizations which fail to adhere to policies established by the governing council for the benefit and protection of all members. This does not preclude the imposition of sanctions under the university's Student Code of Conduct (Policy # 03.70.12).

B. The Executive Board of T.U.G.A. will be established as T.U.G.A.'s Representative governing body, and so recognized by the university. T.U.G.A. and its Executive Board have adopted the following operating guidelines:

- 1) All recognized fraternal organizations will become members of T.U.G.A. and adhere to all attendance and procedural rules;
- 2) The constitution, by-laws, policies, procedures and dues/fees structure(s) will be determined and ratified by T.U.G.A.'s general membership;
- 3) Officers of the Executive Board will be nominated and elected by the general membership of T.U.G.A. with the assistance of the Program Coordinator for Greek Life;
- 4) The Executive Board will have the authority to appoint sub-groups on a standing or temporary basis, as deemed appropriate;

#### C. Hazing

Hazing is a violation of state law and contrary to the policies of all fraternities and sororities and the university. It is especially anathema to any concept of brotherhood, sisterhood, friendship or community. Accordingly, each member of T.U.G.A. and the Greek community agrees to refrain from hazing as defined in the university's Student Code of Conduct (Policy # 03.70.12)

#### D. Alcohol

Each T.U.G.A. member organization agrees to abide by the university's Student Drug and Alcohol Policy (Policy # 03.70.01). Each T.U.G.A. member organization agrees to adhere to the FIPG Guidelines and Office of Student Activities Guidelines for Social Events.

### Notes

#### 1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on October 10, 1989, superseding the prior policy adopted by the Board of Trustees on December 8, 1987.

#### 2. History:

##### **Supersedes:**

“A Proposal to Recognize and Govern Fraternities and Sororities at Temple University”, 1987, on file in the Office of the Secretary, and “Recognition of Fraternities and Sororities”, 1989, on file in the Office of the Secretary.

**Reviewed By:** Vice President for Student Affairs, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Student Activities. Approved by the Board of Trustees on June, 17 2010.

**3. Cross References/Appendix:**

Student Code of Conduct (Policy # 03.70.12); Student Drug and Alcohol Policy (Policy # 03.70.01); Use of External Facilities by External Groups (Policy # 04.34.01).