Expansion Process for Fraternity/Sorority Organizations

The University of California, Merced chooses to intentionally and carefully manage the growth and expansion of fraternity/sorority organizations. UC Merced seeks to host organizations that will partner to create a 21st century fraternity and sorority community, as demonstrated by ideals consistent with those of the University and a willingness to commit the human and financial resources necessary to assure achievement of those ideals.

UC Merced will only grant recognition to inter/national fraternities and sororities. Exceptions may be granted for multicultural or special interest fraternity/sorority organizations that are not affiliated with an inter/national organization but are part of a local, national or international organization with appropriate insurance coverage and support.

I. Expansion Oversight
   A. Pending determination by the University Committee on Greek Expansion regarding readiness for expansion, the Fraternity & Sorority Council in cooperation with the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor shall coordinate all matters pertaining to the expansion of the fraternity and sorority community at UC Merced.
   B. Determining Readiness for Expansion
      i. A review of the University of California, Merced environment for expansion readiness shall include the following statistics
         1. Undergraduate enrollment
         2. Number of recognized fraternity/sorority organizations on campus
         3. Number of men/women involved in fraternity/sorority organizations
         4. Number of men/women registered for fraternity/sorority recruitment
         5. Number of men/women who accept bids during fraternity/sorority recruitment
         6. Membership retention rates of recognized fraternity/sorority organizations
         7. Number of men/women interested in fraternity/sorority membership per the Expansion Interest Form
         8. Perceived room for growth of a new fraternity/sorority organization
         9. Availability of campus resources and personnel to support additional fraternity/sorority organizations
      ii. Formal permission to pursue expansion must be obtained by a simple majority vote of the current National Panhellenic Conference groups on the Fraternity & Sorority Council prior to any expansion activity by students interested in a Panhellenic sorority.
II. Expansion Review Process
   A. Interested students should contact the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor to discuss
      the expansion process for fraternity/sorority organizations.
   B. Submissions to the Expansion Interest Form will be received and evaluated
      by Fraternity & Sorority Life in the Office of Student Life.
      i. Upon receipt of the Expansion Interest Form, interested groups will
         be asked to submit additional necessary documentation, including:
            1. A meeting with Fraternity & Sorority Life Coordinator to
               confirm the process and ensure Expansion Interest Form has
               been approved by inter/national organization.
            2. A letter of support from the inter/national organization that
               highlights the philosophy of the organization in relation to the
               University's Principles of Community.
            3. A roster of at least 10 undergraduate student members who
               are in good standing with the University and have a 2.5
               cumulative grade point average.
      ii. Expansion Interest Form and necessary documentation must be
          submitted by a deadline set by the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor.
   C. Following a review of the Expansion Interest Form and necessary
      documentation, interested groups will be asked to submit a Resource Binder
      by a deadline set by the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor. The Resource Binder
      must include:
         i. Fraternity/Sorority Organizational Identity
            1. Name of organization
            2. Date and place of founding
            3. Mission statement and public principles, values and motto
            4. National philanthropic efforts
            5. Membership policies and requirements, including statement of
               all costs associated with membership in the organization (e.g.,
               New and Active Member fees)
            6. Colony and/or chapter's financial obligations to the
               inter/national organization
            7. Inter/national organization's statement of non-discrimination
               and policy against hazing
            8. Copies of last two issues of the inter/national magazine (if
               applicable)
            9. Involvement with inter/national umbrella organizations
            10. Proof of appropriate liability insurance coverage
         ii. Inter/National Organizational Support
            1. Membership selection process and timeline
            2. Educational programming for new members
            3. Timeline and time restrictions, if any, for initiation and
               installation
            4. Academic/scholarship requirements for initiation and
               installation
            5. Membership/size requirements for initiation and installation
6. Supervision and continuing assistance of new chapter, including number of advisors (alumni or otherwise), house corporation officers, national visitors, etc.

7. Number of alumni and active alumni organizations within 75 miles of the 95340 zip code

iii. Experience at Other Universities

1. A list, by campus, of all chapters in the inter/national organization
2. Location, chapter size, percentage of new members initiated and founding date of each chapter in California
3. Conduct standing/records at other UC campuses
4. Grade rank standing at other UC campuses
5. Membership size/recruiting abilities at other UC campuses
6. Inter/national organization’s relationship with other UC campuses

iv. Overview of National Programs Supporting Chapter Success

1. Educational programs
2. Member/chapter development programs
3. Programs for collegiate/alumni interaction
4. Membership recruitment programs
5. Alcohol and risk management policies
6. Internal structure for holding membership accountable
7. Academic programs, including policies related to grade point average
8. Current membership fee schedule
9. National accreditation programs
10. Officer training opportunities
11. Financial assistance programs and/or scholarship opportunities
12. Other programs of note

v. UC Merced Student Interest

1. Student population drawn to fraternity/sorority organization
2. Decision to identify with fraternity/sorority organization is substantiated
3. Group size and commitment to colonization

D. Pending submission of complete Resource Binder, demonstration of mutual interest with the inter/national organization and a sufficient number of local alumni, as well as a review of conduct of chapters at local and/or peer institutions, the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor will notify the organizations identified to give a On-campus Presentation.

i. On-campus Presentations should last one hour in length and review the information in the Resource Binder, as well as offer an opportunity for questions by members of the campus community.

III. Selection Criteria
A. Selection criteria for determining whether to extend an invitation to an inter/national organization to establish a colony/chapter at UC Merced will include, but is not limited to, the following:

   i. Inter/national Strength: Strength will be assessed by the number of collegiate chapters, number of chapters gained and lost in the last five years, percentage of new members initiated, membership recruitment statistics, educational programs and notable success on other campuses similar to UC Merced.

   ii. Success of Recent Extension/Release of Information: Permission must be granted from the inter/national organization to solicit the opinion of the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor(s) and/or other University representatives on campuses where the organization has recently colonized or chartered new chapters.

   iii. Quality of Inter/national Organization’s Supervising and Supportive Programs: Inter/national organizations will demonstrate a committed focus on scholarship, leadership and service, including policies and procedures and programs, workshops and recognition that support this focus.

   iv. Compatibility with University: Inter/national organizations will be reviewed for their compatibility with the University mission, values, vision and strategic priorities as evidenced by the fraternity/sorority organization’s values, standards and expansion procedures.

   v. Strength of Local Alumni Support or Support Deemed Sufficient: Strength of alumni associations, number of local alumni, potential advisors, potential house corporation board members and financial support will determine score in this category. Recommended standards include a minimum of five alumni willing to assume positions as chapter advisors and/or house corporation board members and that a local alumni support group be established.

   vi. Quality of Support Staff: An inter/national office will assume responsibility for the colony/chapter’s establishment process and provide a field representative or alumni representative to work directly with the new fraternity/sorority organization until chapter status is achieved by the colony and for a minimum one semester following Installation. A clear process for chapter installation regarding needed members, timeline and expectations will be in place.

   vii. Student Interest: Decision by interested students to identify with organization is substantiated beyond superficial elements to values, heritage, foundation, etc.

IV. Process for Establishment

   A. Following the completion of the Expansion Interest Form, Resource Binder and On-campus Presentation, Fraternity & Sorority Council will evaluate the proposed fraternity/sorority organization’s potential success at the University using the selection criteria outlined in section III, A and presentation evaluations.
i. Current fraternity/sorority delegates will vote in favor or opposing expansion. Discussion will also occur to identify potential reservations regarding the organization, all of which will be summarized in a written report.

B. The Fraternity & Sorority Council will submit a written report, with the group's recommendation, to the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor, who will add a recommendation from the Office of Student Life. The Fraternity/Sorority Advisor will forward both the report and recommendations to the Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

C. Upon review of the written reports, the AVC will decide whether to extend an invitation on behalf of the University to the approved inter/national organization to establish a chapter at UC Merced.

V. New Colony/Chapter Expectations
   A. In accepting an invitation from the University to establish a chapter at UC Merced, the new fraternity/sorority organization must provide the following to the Fraternity & Sorority Council and Fraternity/Sorority Advisor:
      i. Expansion procedures, including plans for adoption of the Interest Group, membership recruitment, officer training program and visitation schedules of inter/national officers
      ii. New and/or active member roster and grade release forms
      iii. Contact roster of primary faculty/staff campus advisor, colony/chapter advisor and a minimum of four alumni advisors willing to assume positions as advisors and/or house corporation board members
      iv. Copies of both local and inter/national Constitution and Bylaws
      v. Copies of insurance policies and a current Certificate of Insurance
      vi. One or more members to attend all Fraternity & Sorority Council meetings
      vii. Program plans that address the following areas:
         viii. Scholarship
         ix. Financial responsibilities
         x. Alumni relations
         xi. Social programming, including substance abuse and risk management education
         xii. Philanthropy and community service
         xiii. Sexual assault and harassment prevention
         xiv. New member education and hazing prevention
         xv. Monthly updates to Fraternity & Sorority Council regarding progress of group

B. Failure to meeting any of the aforementioned requirements will result in a review by the Associate Vice Chancellor to determine the status of recognition.

C. The inter/national organization must award full chapter status within one semester of the University granting colony recognition. The Office of Student
Life can grant an extension for good cause depending on the presented circumstance.

VI. Expansion Timeline for 2014-2015
   A. Complete Expansion Interest Form online by **Monday, June 2, 2014 at noon**.
   B. Provide necessary documentation to support Expansion Interest Form to Fraternity/Sorority Advisor by email by **Monday, June 30, 2014 at noon**.
   C. Submit Resource Binder in person to the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor in the Office of Student Life, Kolligian Library 184 by **Monday, August 11, 2014 at noon**.
   D. Following a review of all submitted documentation, On-campus Presentations will be coordinated by the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor in collaboration with the inter/national organization and interested students to be conducted between **Sunday, September 7, 2014 and Sunday, September 21, 2014**.
   E. Fraternity & Sorority Council will provide a recommendation to the Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs by **Wednesday, September 24**.
   F. The final decision regarding fraternity/sorority expansion and recognition will be released by **Wednesday, October 1**.
   G. Initiation of students in fraternity/sorority must occur prior to the conclusion of fall semester, 2014.
   H. New fraternity/sorority must participate in Formal Recruitment in spring semester, 2015.
   I. Review limit to expansion in April/May 2015.