

OFFICE OF FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

Affiliate Council Process and Expectations

(This document complements all governing council policies & procedures)

The mission of the Affiliate Council is to educate incoming fraternity/sorority chapters about the expectations of the TAMU fraternity/sorority community, University while providing necessary skills and strategies to officers through regular educational meetings. Members of the Affiliate Council include fraternal organizations which have colony status or have petitioned to become a member of a Texas A& M University Greek council. The Affiliate Council will act as an arena for learning for new chapters and colonies while encouraging development of fraternal ties among diverse chapters.

How do organizations become members of the Fraternity & Sorority Life Affiliate Council?

The organization may become a member via two methods:

- 1) An expansion team from a (inter) national organization may contact the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to request information to expand or re-colonize at Texas A&M. The organization will follow the guidelines and policies as set forth by the governing council in which the organization will reside. The national expansion team for the organization will present to the council and complete the request for expansion process. The governing council will vote to either grant or deny permission to expand. If the organization is granted permission by the governing council, the organization may recruit and initiate new members and elect officers. The officers for the new organization will meet with the Assistant Director of Student Activities (FSL) to begin the colonization process and recognition process. A letter will be sent to the Department of Student Activities and other key stakeholders announcing the new colony. The organization will be assigned a peer mentor from the Affiliate Council Peer Advisory Board at the first Affiliate Council meeting.
- 2) Should the organization already exist as a recognized student organization (i.e. interest group) and have active members, then the petitioning colony/chapter will request information from the governing council in which the organization wishes to become a member. The petitioning organization will complete the expansion request form and present to the governing council. The council will grant permission or deny the request of the organization. If permission is granted the colony or chapter will meet with the Assistant Director of Student Activities (FSL) to begin the colonization process and recognition process. A letter will be sent to the Department of Student Activities and other key stakeholders announcing the new colony. The organization will be assigned a peer mentor from the Affiliate Council Peer Advisory Board at the first Affiliate Council meeting.

What are the expectations of Affiliate Council chapters?

- 1) Chapters are required to fulfill the colonization requirements as outlined during the initial meeting with the Assistant Director of Student Activities (FSL).
- 2) Attend bi-weekly meetings with the Affiliate Council Peer Advisory Board.
- 3) Support and attend all Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life activities and events.
- 4) Attend governing council events and meetings to become familiar with the inner workings of the governing council.

Why was an Affiliate Council created by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life?

The development of the Affiliate Council was designed to meet the obvious needs associated with the education, officer training, and support new chapters and colonies need when they become a new fraternity/sorority organization at Texas A&M University. The Affiliate Council attempts to aid new chapters and colonies to successfully transition into fully functional organizations.

When may an organization petition to join the Affiliate Council?

Since the Affiliate Council operates on a calendar cycle and has an established curriculum for learning for its chapters, petitions to enter the council are only accepted in **February** and **October** every year. The number of chapters allowed to enter the council is dictated by the governing councils and may be a competitive process.

How long may an organization reside in the Affiliate Council?

An organization may reside up to two consecutive years, at which time the organization may re-enter into general student organization status and lose its affiliation with a governing council and the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. Organizations which reside in the Affiliate Council are encouraged to petition for full-admission into their governing council after one year in the Affiliate Council.

While in the Affiliate Council, do I pay dues to a governing council or have to meet governing council meeting and event attendance expectations?

No, the chapter does not pay dues to the Affiliate Council. As for meeting governing council expectations please refer to the governing council's guidelines specific to expansion. It is critical that organizations are mindful that these governing council members will be voting on the organization's full admittance into the council at the end of the year.

What are the rights and privileges of Affiliate Council chapters?

- 1) Ability to reserve rooms on campus.
- 2) Use Greek letters on correspondence and Texas A&M Greek Life logo.
- 3) Attend council meetings and events.
- 4) Serve on council committees (however can not vote or chair a committee).
- 5) Access to services and resources provided by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
- 6) Ability to utilize the Student Organization Finance Center.
- 7) Reserve Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life resources.
- 8) Inclusion in Fraternity & Sorority Life publications and website
- 9) Obtain wristbands and letters of good standing for TABC.
- 10) Access to Fraternity & Sorority Life staff for presentations and event planning.
- 11) Help with roster maintenance and grade sheets.
- 12) Adherence to the Fraternity & Sorority Life accountability process for Greek chapters.
- 13) Participate in recruitment activities to the extent the governing council permits

Process for admittance into the Affiliate Council

National organization petitions one of the following, Collegiate Panhellenic Council (CPC), Interfraternity Council (IFC) Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), or National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), for permission for the organization to recruit on campus (if there is no national expansion team the interest group for the organization must petition to become a member of the affiliate council before initiating members).

1. If the governing council (CPC, IFC, MGC, or NPHC) approves the petition, the national organization is allowed to recruit and initiate new members within the confines of the governing council's rules on colonization.
2. Once new members are initiated or permission is granted by the national organization's headquarters, the petitioning colony is allowed to become members of the Affiliate Council.
3. Chapters, which are members of the Affiliate Council, will be able to remain members for a maximum of two consecutive academic years after initial petition to be members of the affiliate council.
4. Member chapters of the affiliate council at the end of one year will be encouraged to request full membership into a governing council. The Affiliate Council will be charged with the task of supporting or denying approval of the member chapter's petition. The use of a rubric will help the peer advisors on the Affiliate Council board to reach a decision.
5. Each Affiliated chapter will present a completed portfolio of accomplishments, verification of adherence to Memorandum of Understanding for Colonization, and other pertinent information gathered during their tenure in the Affiliate Council when requesting membership into a governing council.

Full-membership is defined as having all privileges awarded to chapters that are members of a CPC, IFC, MGC, or NPHC.

Petition is defined as formally requesting membership to recruit or initiate new members.

Affiliated council membership is defined as the status when a colony or new chapter has been awarded permission by a governing council to recruit and initiate members.

Expectations of Affiliate Council members

Affiliate Council members must:

- Submission of a signed colonization agreement to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life via the Affiliate Council advisor
- Attend Affiliate Council orientation
- Chapter representatives must attend all affiliate council meetings and events
- Attend events and activities hosted by the council, which the chapter is seeking membership
- Complete an annual chapter portfolio and have chapter president complete an annual exit interview with Affiliate Council advisor

In addition, for the duration of the membership Affiliate Council members must:

- Adhere to all university, state, council rules, and policies. Failure to adhere to rules and policies may result in extension of the Affiliate Council membership or expulsion from council. If an organization is expelled, all privileges are revoked and organization may re-apply for membership in the council **after one calendar year.**
- Meet all expectations set forth in the colonization agreement.
- **Refrain from hosting of events with alcohol.** Presence of alcohol at any chapter event during the first semester of Affiliate Council membership **IS PROHIBITED.**
- All chapter officers must meet with a FSL representative for at least one hour to receive officer training

Chapter presidents- Assistant Director of Student Activities - FSL

Vice-Presidents- CPC Advisor/Risk Management Specialist

New Member Educators- Leadership Development Specialist

Secretary or Record keeper- IFC Advisor/Outreach Specialist

Treasurer- IFC Advisor/Outreach Specialist

Risk Management or Standards Officer- CPC Advisor/Risk Management Specialist

Social Chair- CPC Advisor/Risk Management Specialist

Parliamentarian- Leadership Development Specialist