



National Panhellenic Conference

Standards

Adopted Dec. 2003

Minimum Expectations

Believing that Greek organizations contribute in multiple ways to campus life and higher education, the leadership of the 26 inter/national women's fraternities that comprise the National Panhellenic Conference is proud of the positive contributions our groups make to their host institutions. We are committed to the continuation of our organizations at their host institutions. In an effort to reaffirm our high standards, the leadership of these 26 inter/national women's fraternities submit the following standards as minimum expectations of collegiate chapters of the National Panhellenic Conference groups.

Our chapters will enhance and promote each member's development and learning by

1. Positively affecting intellectual development

Each member group of the National Panhellenic Conference places high value on education, academic performance and intellectual development.

The following minimum standards for chapters are:

- Meeting or exceeding the campus All Women's Average.
- Providing academic programming to new members and members, co-sponsoring programming with another Greek and/or campus organization or attending campus-sponsored programming that may include but not be limited to teaching study skills, providing tutoring, and recognizing scholastic achievement.
- Developing positive relationships with university faculty by seeking their assistance with the chapter's academic programming and scholarship goals.

2. Instilling the values of their organizations and their host institution

Each member group of the National Panhellenic Conference:

- Integrates their values, missions and standards throughout their collegiate chapter organizational and programming structure.
- Educates their chapter members on policies pertaining to the issues of alcohol and substance abuse, underage drinking, and all inter/national policies pertaining to it.
- Encourages non-alcoholic social activities.

- Requires a policy of alcohol-free facilities for all of their housed chapters.
- Provides a standards board structure by which chapters hold their members accountable for their behavior.

The following minimum standards for chapters are:

- Providing information on underage drinking and alcohol and substance abuse at least once a term.
- Enforcing its inter/national organization's clear policies on alcohol and social event planning guidelines/policies.
- Abiding by all federal, state/province and local laws related to alcohol and substance use.
- Providing at least one (1) values education program annually.
- Partnering with the university to provide a healthy and safe collegiate experience for chapters that is grounded in the core values and mission of both the host institution and the inter/national organization.

3. Developing leadership skills and abilities

Each member group of the National Panhellenic Conference places high value on the development, support and mentoring of leaders.

The following minimum standards for chapters are:

- Providing at least one (1) leadership development program annually, co-sponsoring a program with another Greek and/or campus organization or attending a campus-sponsored program.
- Requiring at least one (1) chapter officer to attend the inter/national organization's annual Convention/Leadership Conference.
- Encouraging chapter members to utilize their leadership skills for the benefit of other campus organizations, activities and/or projects.
- Having at least one (1) local alumna serving as an advisor. In communities where local alumnae are not available to serve as advisors, a chapter shall rely on a faculty advisor. An advisor and chapter leader shall periodically engage in dialogue with university officials.

4. Developing positive relationships (brotherhood/sisterhood)

Each member group of the National Panhellenic Conference places high value on respect for others, human dignity, cultural diversity and self-worth.

The following minimum standards for chapters are:

- Adhering to its inter/national policies regarding hazing.
- Executing a new member program consistent with the inter/national organization's values that positively introduces new members to the Greek community.

- Providing at least one (1) program annually on the value of human dignity, co-sponsoring a program with another Greek and/or campus organization or attending a campus-sponsored program.
- Participating in at least one (1) campus-sponsored program annually that promotes the campus' multicultural climate.
- Providing a minimum of one (1) health and wellness program annually, co-sponsoring a program with another Greek and/or campus organization or attending a campus-sponsored program.

5. Developing citizenship through service and outreach.

Each member group of the National Panhellenic Conference places high value on community and philanthropic service.

The following minimum standards for chapters are:

- Engaging in a minimum of one (1) community service project of hands-on assistance each term.
- Complying with the fire/safety inspection regulations (housed chapters) of its inter/national organization and host institution.
- Acknowledging and promoting positive relationships with the greater university community by engaging in regular communication and dialogue that informs and solves problems when needed.

Developed by the National Panhellenic Conference Inter/National Presidents. Adopted by the National Panhellenic Conference 12/8/03.

NPC Position Statement

Collegiate Greek Community Standards and Conference/Member Group Self-Monitoring

The National Panhellenic Conference, founded in 1902, consists of twenty-six inter/national fraternities for women. June 2004 statistics show that the Conference represents a total membership in excess of 3.6 million fraternity women. The Conference supports its women's fraternities by promoting values, intellectual development, leadership, friendship, citizenship and cooperation. The Conference fosters cooperative inter-fraternity relationships among the inter/national organizations, their collegiate and alumnae associations, and it partners with colleges and universities to maintain the highest performance standards in all areas of collegiate life. The Conference has a built-in structure that cultivates and fosters the tenets adopted by its member fraternities and their host institutions.

Conference Structure

A delegation from each of the twenty-six member women's fraternities meets on an annual basis to formulate Unanimous Agreements and Resolutions and to recommend policies and procedures in support of the philosophy and spirit of the member fraternities that comprise the

Conference. A standing and special committee structure addresses issues including those related to academic achievement, educational programming, awards, long range planning, extension, housing, public relations, publications, and research.

College Panhellenic Associations

At the close of the 2004 academic year, the twenty-six member groups maintained 2,905 active collegiate chapters on more than 639 college and university campuses in the United States and Canada. On each campus hosting at least two chapters, the National Panhellenic Conference maintains a College Panhellenic Association composed of all members of the women's fraternities represented on the campus. A special NPC advisor assists new College Panhellenics in developing their documents. When those are satisfactory, the Panhellenic receives an official letter of approval from the Chairman of the Conference. College Panhellenic Associations are local governing bodies responsible for Panhellenic operations in accord with Conference agreements, policies and procedures. There is a direct correlation between a College Panhellenic Association and the National Panhellenic Conference. This is reflected in membership, policies and procedures (including judicial), advisement, and resources.

Area Advisors to College Panhellenic Associations

An NPC Area Advisor, appointed by the Conference, serves each College Panhellenic Association. She serves as liaison between the College Panhellenic, the Conference and the inter/national officers of the women's fraternities represented on the campus. In her role as advisor, she interprets the policies of the Conference that have been adopted by all member groups. She advises the College Panhellenic in all areas including recruitment, educational programming, leadership training, and appropriate trends/programs from other campuses. The Area Advisor makes individual campus visits for special problem counseling. She is one of many resources to identify and address a Panhellenic community's lack of adherence to standards.

NPC Consulting Team

Among the resources provided by the Conference is a Consulting Team. A resource team visits a campus at the invitation of the Panhellenic to address general or specific concerns. Team members conduct an overview of conditions and provide recommendations based on their observations and research. Visits include interviews with members of the Greek community, alumnae volunteers, the administration, and others with a vested interest. The NPC Consulting Team program, through its personalized recommendations for positive actions, has been a critical asset in identifying areas in need of improvement and in building on the strengths of the female Greek community.

Campus and Housing Meetings

Campus-specific meetings are held at annual sessions of the National Panhellenic Conference and during Regional Greek Leadership Conference meetings, where appropriate. Their purpose is to give NPC member groups represented on designated campuses the opportunity to discuss critical campus or housing issues. Serious risk management issues and major campus incidents are addressed. Action plans are developed with congruence and pledged follow-through from the inter/national member groups affected. Consulting Team visits, joint letters in opposition to risky behavior or negative social practices, the development of values statements or codes of ethics, alcohol policies, and other actions have been the result of these campus-specific meetings.

Holding Chapters Accountable

Each College Panhellenic Association has a Judicial Board and procedures, as outlined in the Unanimous Agreements of the Conference. The College Panhellenic judicial system addresses violations that reflect unfavorably on the Panhellenic community and chapters are held accountable for the actions of their members. Procedures provide due process and a fair hearing, mediation, referral to the Judicial Board, and recommended sanctions. There are four levels of appeal beginning with Judicial Appeals Committee of the NPC College Panhellenics Committee.

Holding the Inter/national Women's Fraternities Accountable

National Panhellenic Conference Bylaws contain a provision and procedures for disciplining an inter/national member group when the member group is accused of violating a Unanimous Agreement and/or acting contrary to Panhellenic ethics. Procedures provide for mediation and three levels of judicial hearings. After due process, if found guilty, appropriate sanctions are rendered. This could range from a letter of admonition to loss of membership in the Conference.

Summary

Each of the twenty-six women's fraternities in the National Panhellenic Conference is a values-based organization committed to the personal growth and development of its members. Each has a values document and accompanying standards of its own and a process by which it holds its chapters accountable. By virtue of membership in the National Panhellenic Conference, the values and standards are shared by the member groups and have been incorporated into the NPC standards document that accompanies this position paper.

Traditionally, NPC member women's fraternities have high expectations and hold their chapters to higher standards than those articulated in campus documents. NPC groups are committed to accountability and have a proven record of response. The commitment and structure of the twenty-six women's fraternities and of the National Panhellenic Conference provide a proven process of self-assessment already in place to hold the twenty-six member groups and their chapters accountable.