

**PANHELLENIC COUNCIL BYLAWS FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**Revised Fall 2009**

ARTICLE I. FINANCE

Section 1 Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Florida International University Panhellenic Council (FIU PC) shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Section 2 Contracts: Any contractual agreements will be addressed through the Panhellenic advisor in cooperation with the Panhellenic Council in order to bind it to any endeavor or program. If any contract has the potential to affect the wellbeing or general operation of any member group, the Council will present the contract for discussion at the next scheduled PC general meeting.

Section 3 Checks: Checks issued on behalf of the FIU PC shall be signed by any two of the following: President, Treasurer and Advisor.

Section 4 Payments: All payments due to the FIU PC shall be given to the Treasurer who shall record them. Checks for payment shall be made payable to the "FIU Panhellenic Council." A fee of \$25 plus any additional bank fees will be assessed per every returned check.

Section 5 Membership Dues

A. Rosters: Rosters through ICS are due to the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life at the second PC meeting at the beginning of each Fall and Spring semester. This roster will be used by PC to determine each chapter's payments. A fine of \$50 will be assessed to all chapters who do not produce their rosters in time. Any chapters participating in intake or continuous open recruitment (COR) must immediately update their rosters with the new member's information.

B. Amount Per Semester: The dues of each PC member chapter shall be an assessment per member and new member. The amount of such dues shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) per member and new member.

C. Time of Payment: The dues of each PC member chapter shall be payable one calendar month from the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the semester. Chapters participating in intake or continuous open recruitment (COR) must immediately pay new member dues at the time of bid acceptance or risk receiving a late fee.

Section 6 Fines

A. A \$10.00 fine will be assessed to any organization for unexcused absenteeism of their delegate and/or any late document/payments that have been requested by the Panhellenic Council (i.e. recruitment reports or scholarship chair reports).

B. A \$5.00 fine will be assessed to any organization for unexcused tardiness of their delegate.

C. All fines must be paid within a week of the invoice in which they were assessed or a late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed. In the event that fines and late fees assessed are not paid within the timeframe issued, the chapter will be privy to an educational sanction determined by the Panhellenic Council, PC Judicial Board, and/or the OSFL. The OSFL also reserves the right to cancel reservations or sign documents for chapters

D. All member groups are expected to have representation at PC sponsored events. If chapters do not participate, action may be taken with the chapter's advisor and president through the OSFL. Chapters will not be refunded any funds used for programming and events not attended by the chapter (Refer to Article V, Section 2h of PC Constitution.).

## ARTICLE II. THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Section 1 The Election Committee will be composed of one representative per Chapter, the Panhellenic Advisor, and is chaired by the Panhellenic President acting as an ex-officio member.

Section 2 The purpose of the Elections Committee is to review applications and discard applications of those persons who do not meet the qualifications of the Panhellenic Constitution. The Committee will conduct a special election forum, in conjunction with the Panhellenic Council, which will serve, as an open election meeting where set questions will be asked.

Section 3 The Elections Committee cannot be comprised of any Chapter Panhellenic voting delegates, Panhellenic Council Executive Board members (other than President), and/or persons running for a Panhellenic Council Executive Board position.

Section 4 In accordance with the PC Elections Committee, there can be a maximum of two individuals per organization represented in the Panhellenic Executive Board. In the spirit of the Panhellenic system, the Elections Committee will strive when possible for equal chapter representation on the Panhellenic Council Executive Board.

### Section 5 Timeline for Election Process

A. The fall semester will serve as the official application submission process. The deadline for applying is to be determined by the Elections Committee and the current Executive Board of the PC.

B. The month of October until mid-November will serve as the election period.

C. The PC President will set up a meeting with the elections committee. The Elections committee will review applications, conduct interviews, and choose a slate. Those slated will be contacted before the election meeting.

D. At the PC meeting following the slate meeting, the slate will be presented. The PC President will open the floor for nominations after the slate presentation. The PC Voting Delegates will be instructed as to the procedure of the silent vote. The

PC Executive Board, the Elections Committee, the Panhellenic Advisor will be present as the results are tallied and reported back to the Council. As always, in the efforts of furthering sisterhood and Greek Life at FIU, full cooperation and patience is expected of each organization.

## ARTICLE III. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1 The Executive Board shall:

A. Administer routine business between meetings of the Panhellenic Council when advisable and such other business as has been approved for action by PC vote.

B. Report all actions by the Executive Board at the next regular meeting of the PC through the President and the Secretary shall record the action in the minutes of the meeting.

- C. Be responsible for facilitating new officer training.
- D. Be responsible for selecting an Assistant Recruitment Coordinator in the first month of office to have a year round position as a chair under the FIU Panhellenic Executive Board.

#### ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP SELECTION

Section 1 An early fall recruitment shall be held.

Section 2 The National Panhellenic Conference Quota-Total System shall be followed.

Section 3 The Preferential Bidding System shall be used.

Section 4 The Release Figure Method shall be used.

Section 5 Except during formal Recruitment period, continuous open bidding shall be in effect during the school year (fall through spring) for all eligible women students.

Section 6 Chapters that do not fill basic quota during formal Recruitment may continue to bid and pledge to quota in continuous open bidding even if reaching quota puts them over total.

Section 7 All membership selection events shall be held in campus facilities with the exception of continuous open bidding (informal recruitment).

Section 8 Every regularly enrolled new member, initiate or affiliate of a chapter shall be counted in the chapter total.

- a. A list of new, initiated, and affiliated members should be filed with the President of the Panhellenic Council and the Panhellenic Advisor at the first Panhellenic Council meeting of each semester, or after an intake period or bid acceptance during continuous open recruitment.
- b. Any termination or other change in membership shall be reported to the President of the Panhellenic Council and the Panhellenic Advisor no later than the following meeting after its occurrence.

#### ARTICLE V. RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES

Section 1 Code of Ethics

We, the members of The Florida International University's Panhellenic Council, stand behind the goals of recruitment for promoting opportunities for the development of undergraduates through membership in women's fraternities. We support the goals of recruitment as being the following:

- a. To give each potential member maximum opportunity to pledge
- b. To provide fraternity experience to as many as possible
- c. To maintain adequate strength in the fraternity chapters, and assist and empower

fellow chapters to do so. We uphold and honor the Florida International University's Recruitment Guidelines and the National Panhellenic Conference's Unanimous Agreements through our thoughts, words, and

actions. We believe that the highest level of trust should exist between chapter members and the Panhellenic Council in order to ensure a spirit of cooperation and harmony. As a member of The Florida International University's Panhellenic Council, we shall stand by these ideals which guide our actions.

## Section 2 Recruitment Guides

- A. The PC Executive Board and Panhellenic Advisor will appoint Recruitment Guides (PG) via an application and interview process. Selected Recruitment Guides shall be a sister from any affiliated sorority and shall have experienced at least one Panhellenic Formal Recruitment as a sister prior to applying. Recruitment Guides shall disaffiliate from their chapter for the time period designated by the PC Executive Board, who will have final say in who will partake in the Formal Recruitment period.
- B. Pictures of the Recruitment Guides and the Panhellenic Executive Board should not appear on composites, rotational event pictures, photo albums, slide shows, shared network systems (Facebook, Myspace, etc.), websites, etc. The Recruitment Guide must have a 2.5 cumulative and semester GPA.
- D. Must abide by the current Recruitment Guide disaffiliation rules.

## Section 3 Rules for Potential New Members

- A. All potential new members shall be fully matriculated (12 credits or 9 credits and four classes, one which may be the non-credit college algebra course or 1 credit first-year experience course) at FIU. Grade point average requirements will be set by the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life.
- B. Members of National Panhellenic Conference member fraternities or Panhellenic Council are ineligible for recruitment.
- C. A student who has had her pledge broken by a sorority or, who has broken her pledge to a sorority, shall not be eligible to join another sorority at FIU for one calendar year from the date she was originally pledged. However, the same sorority chapter may repledge her at any time within that calendar year.
- D. A student's name must be entered on a master recruitment list in order to participate in formal recruitment and be properly registered in order to be issued event invitations.
- E. Contact Rule. Silence is in effect from the beginning of Preference Night until Bid Ceremony. Normal courtesy contact (a friendly greeting) with sisters is permitted.
- F. An oral invitation to join a sorority is not valid. Bids must be given in writing on Bid Day through the Panhellenic Council.
- G. Potential new members are asked to attend all assigned events. Only the Membership Recruitment Vice President in consultation with the Panhellenic Advisor can make exceptions. Attendance at all events is to the potential new member's advantage so that she may get to know all the sisters of each sorority.
- H. Members will not be denied admission or discriminated against based on color, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

## Section 4 Rules for Sororities

- A. Any remark, which might be interpreted as disparaging or derogatory, made by any sorority affiliate about another sorority or any of its members is prohibited.

- B. An oral or written invitation to join a sorority before the stipulated time for bidding is prohibited. Oral bids are illegitimate at any time.
- C. No alcohol or men, with the exception of advisors, will be involved in or participate in any recruitment functions.
- D. Preference and bid lists are due at the time required by the Panhellenic Council.
- E. A cap on recruitment expenses must be established and approved by the member fraternities prior to Formal Recruitment including the value of all donated goods and services. (NPC resolution '91)
- F. Chapter Total is at 70 members.

#### Section 5 Informal Recruitment Guidelines

- A. Informal Recruitment (Continuous Open Recruitment) shall begin immediately following Formal Recruitment so that potential new members wanting to join (regardless of whether they went through Formal Recruitment or not) and sororities not fulfilling quota or total may engage in informal recruitment to further all their membership. Continuous Open Recruitment begins immediately following Formal Recruitment Bid Day.
- B. All recruitment events held during Informal Recruitment must be registered with the Panhellenic Council.
- C. The eligibility of potential new members should be checked through the Panhellenic Advisor prior to the issuing of a bid.
- D. All informal recruitment new members shall be issued an official written bid and must complete all necessary paperwork.
- E. Vacancies in the new member quota (as a result of disassociating) cannot be filled unless the chapter is below total.
- F. The rules concerning potential new members and the sorority code of ethics listed under Formal Recruitment are also applicable during Informal Recruitment.

#### Section 6 Pledging and Initiating

- A. A woman must be a regularly matriculated student to be eligible for recruitment and pledging in accordance with FIU Panhellenic Council recruitment rules for potential new members.
- B. A new member may be initiated whenever she has met the requirements of the sorority to which she is pledged, but no later than the deadline prescribed by each member group's Inter/National Organization.

#### ARTICLE VI. HAZING

Florida Statute 1066.63 defines "hazing" as any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a postsecondary institution.

"Hazing" includes, but is not limited to, pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student, and also includes any activity that would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student.

Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.

A person commits hazing, a third degree felony, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#), when he or she intentionally or recklessly commits any act of hazing as defined in subsection:

(1) upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing results in serious bodily injury or death of such other person.

(2) A person commits hazing, a third degree felony, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#), when he or she intentionally or recklessly commits any act of hazing as defined in subsection (1) upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing results in serious bodily injury or death of such other person.

(3) A person commits hazing, a first degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#), when he or she intentionally or recklessly commits any act of hazing as defined in subsection (1) upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization and the hazing creates a substantial risk of physical injury or death to such other person.

(4) As a condition of any sentence imposed pursuant to subsection (2) or subsection (3), the court shall order the defendant to attend and complete a 4-hour hazing education course and may also impose a condition of drug or alcohol probation.

## Article VIII. INTRAMURALS

### Section I. Guidelines

#### A. Guidelines

1. All sororities wishing to participate in Greek Intramurals (IMs) must adhere to all of the IM rules and regulations.
2. In accordance to the policies currently supported by the OSFL, sorority members wishing to participate in the Greek IM league must be an active member in good standing of their chapter according to their ICS roster, have a 2.5 cumulative and semester GPA and must be currently taking at least 9 credit hours.
3. Each sorority will also be required to participate in a workshop addressing appropriate sportsmanlike behavior and require all participating Intramural team members attend prior to the start of each intramural season.
4. A maximum of two (2) credit exceptions are applicable per semester per chapter. Exceptions must be currently enrolled, and must have a 2.5 minimum cumulative and semester GPA to be eligible.
5. All violations of the PC Constitution will result as follows:
  - a. Participation of an illegal player will result in a forfeit loss of the game in question and a loss of sportsmanship points.
  - b. Participation of illegal players during the playoffs will result in a loss and disqualification from the playoffs.
6. Seven business days prior to the start of each sport (i.e. softball, soccer, baseball, etc.) each chapter will submit a roster for each sport that will consist of 23 women from each chapter (new members and sisters). After the roster for each sport is submitted there will be no alternations and only those members listed on the particular sports roster will be permitted to play.

## ARTICLE IX. EXTENSION PROCESS

Upon receipt of a letter of interest for extension, the PC president and extension chair, the Panhellenic Council Executive Board and the Panhellenic Advisor will meet to determine if extension is feasible. If so, a vote in the Panhellenic Council will be taken to move towards extension. Following the Panhellenic Council's approval, a Panhellenic extension committee shall be formed.

**Section 1 Composition** The extension committee shall be composed of the extension chair, the Panhellenic executive board, a representative of each organization, the Panhellenic Advisor, a university faculty/staff member, and an Interfraternity Council and NPHC representative (Ex Officio).

**Section 2 Duties** The extension committee will do the following: gather data on all prospective national sororities, assist in all aspects of the expansion process, and attend all expansion meetings.

Section 3 Timeline The Panhellenic extension committee shall refer to the National Panhellenic Conference Manual of Information (Green Book) for policies and procedures regarding the extension timeline.

Section 4 Authority The extension committee, with the consent of the Panhellenic Advisor and the PC president, and the extension chair shall have the sole authority to approve the colonization of a new Panhellenic organization at FIU. All decisions of the extension committee shall be considered final.

ARTICLE X. RULES OF ORDER The Florida International University Panhellenic Association and its Panhellenic Council shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised except in matters specifically provided for in the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS These Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Panhellenic Council, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing at the preceding regular meeting.