Bowling Green State University
Social Fraternity/Sorority Expansion & Re-colonization Policy

Bowling Green State University (BGSU) is committed to supporting a vibrant and strong fraternity and sorority community through a collection of outstanding chapters that support and live their respective values. The fraternal experience can play a critical role in the development of students throughout their college years and beyond and as such, we believe strongly that partnerships among inter/national organizations, alumni volunteers, individual chapters, and the University is essential.

Expansion involves inviting inter/national social fraternities and sororities to establish local chapters on BGSU’s campus. Re-colonization involves inviting inter/national social fraternities and sororities to re-establish a local chapter on BGSU’s campus. Expansion/re-colonization is encouraged when a need for additional fraternal organizations exists and is recommended by the Expansion Committee in conjunction with the Office of Campus Activities. No more than one organization per governing Greek council shall be approved for expansion/re-colonization during any one academic year.

When it is determined that a new group is needed to strengthen the fraternity/sorority community at BGSU, the procedures outlined below will be followed. The purpose of these procedures is to ensure expansion/re-colonization of fraternities and sororities occurs in a manner which includes a carefully developed plan conducive to the Greek Standards of Excellence and the mission of BGSU. A carefully planned process provides maximum opportunity for successful chartering and a meaningful and rewarding experience for the students within the fraternity/sorority community.

SECTION I: DEFINITION & RIGHTS

Article 1: Definition
Social fraternities and sororities (including women’s fraternities) are student organizations whose primary purpose is the personal development of their members, as distinguished from honorary, professional, departmental and service fraternities. The United States Department of Education has established guidelines and criteria necessary to be classified as a social sorority or fraternity (which includes a provision that allows an organization to operate as a single-sex organization.) In keeping with the criteria established by the Department of Education, Bowling Green State University classifies social sororities and fraternities as organizations that:
- Do not limit membership to persons pursuing or having interest in a particular field of study, profession or academic discipline
- Do not serve as honorary societies for academic, leadership, or any other endeavor
- Do not permit members to hold membership in other social sororities or fraternities
In addition these organizations must also:
- Have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Limit membership to currently enrolled students at Bowling Green State University

Article 2: University Registration
As cited in the Student Handbook, specific privileges are granted to all student organizations that complete the University’s registration process. For social fraternities and sororities, they include:
- Opportunity to apply for on-campus fraternity/sorority housing, such to availability
- Use of University facilities through the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Conference & Event Services Office
- Opportunity to apply for student organization office and/or storage space in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union
• Opportunity to apply for University or pouring rights funds in accordance with University rules and regulations
• Use of resources provided by the Office of Campus Activities, including OrgSync and academic reports
• Inclusion in University publications, directories, and distribution materials
• 10% discount on selected catering through BGSU Dining Services
• Participation in University and/or council student organization fairs
• On-campus advertising beyond kiosks which are already available to the public
• Eligible to host on-campus fund-raising activities

Article 3: University Authority
Although any organization/group has the right to assemble on campus, BGSU reserves the right to approve or reject any fraternity or sorority seeking University registration on campus that does not adhere to the policy and all other rules and expectations.

SECTION II: PROCEDURE

Article 1: Letter of Intent
Any social fraternity or sorority seeking registration at Bowling Green State University must file a letter of intent that provides rationale for expanding to BGSU; explains how the organization fulfills the needs of the University community and how it will be able to differentiate itself from other chapters that are currently registered; and articulates the reasons why the organization will fit well within the selected governing council. In addition to the letter of intent, the petitioning fraternity or sorority must submit required documentation as described below to the Office of Campus Activities before November 1st to be considered for expansion/re-colonization for the upcoming fall semester or before July 1st to be considered for the upcoming spring semester. The letter should outline the process and timeline for expansion/re-colonization materials.

Article 2: Required Documentation
The petitioning fraternity or sorority shall provide the Office of Campus Activities

A. A statement and pledge of sponsorship by an established National/ International Organization.
B. A statement of programs and goals including but not limited to scholarship support, philanthropy development, membership development, and leadership development.
C. The identification of an “advisor” or “liaison” that will assist with the operations and activities of the undergraduate group. Outlined expectations for the advisor or liaison should be included.
D. Recruitment/Intake procedures for the organization should be agreed upon by the Office of Campus Activities, governing council, and prospective organization. This should include the names and classification of any undergraduate students already interested in membership.
E. Plan of action and timeline for the expansion/re-colonization including support for the organization by the headquarters and alumni; identification of, length of time to be present, and functions to be performed by national, regional, and/or state staff in support of the process; and the level of support and plan for ongoing consultations and supervision for the colony/chapter.
F. An outlined risk management policy including but not limited to anti-hazing policies, internal conduct board procedures, risk reduction education, and proof of liability insurance.
G. Source of support from alumni association for the colony regarding chartering, housing, and financial resources.
H. History of organization if previously established at Bowling Green State University.
I. Documentation of a 501(c)(7) tax status by the Internal Revenue Service.
Upon receiving any letters of intent and formal documentation, the Office of Campus Activities will respond in writing to each organization to confirm receipt. After formal review of any and all letters of intent, the Office of Campus Activities shall initiate discussion with the Expansion Committee and appropriate governing council in supporting and recognizing a National/ International colony.

**Article 3: Expansion Committee**
The purpose of the Expansion Committee is to evaluate the need, timing, and feasibility of allowing additional social fraternities and/or sororities to expand/re-colonize based on the current trends of the already existing fraternity/sorority community at BGSU. Additionally, the Expansion Committee is responsible for conducting the review and evaluation process for the organization(s) petitioning for consideration for registration. The expansion committee is comprised of at least one Office of Campus Activities professional staff member, two representatives from each of the four governing councils, and one representative from the Office of Residence Life.

**Article 4: Initial Review**
The Expansion Committee shall convene in August and January (or at another time if needed upon recommendation of Associate Dean of Students) to review any and all petitions and to make a recommendation as to whether it would be advisable to allow expansion/re-colonization at that time. The recommendations must be submitted to the Office of Campus Activities, Associate Dean of Students.

If it is determined that expansion/re-colonization is not advisable during the timeline requested by petitioning organization(s), the Office of Campus Activities shall communicate that decision to respective organization(s). When communicating that decision, the Office of Campus Activities may propose a later date for expansion/re-colonization to the petitioning organization.

Should the Expansion Committee decide that more petitions are needed in order to create a sufficient candidate pool of potential organizations, they may initiate an official invitation for expansion/re-colonization to all appropriate headquarters/governing bodies to request additional petitions from organizations not already registered at BGSU.

If it is determined that expansion/re-colonization is advisable during the timeline requested by petitioning organization(s), the committee shall extend a formal invitation to up to three organizations to visit campus to make a formal presentation for further consideration. Prior consideration will be given to organizations that have previously been established on BGSU’s campus.

**Article 5: Formal Presentation**
Each invited organization shall deliver a formal presentation to the Expansion Committee in addition to a separate formal presentation to the governing council to which it seeks affiliation. Immediately following the formal presentation from each petitioning organization, the appropriate council must vote on whether the presenting social fraternity or sorority would be a beneficial addition to the fraternity/sorority community at BGSU. From there, the Expansion Committee shall review any and all formal presentations, taking into consideration the outcome of the council’s vote. Upon review of all relevant information, the Expansion Committee shall make a recommendation to the Associate Dean of Students for review and approval on whether an invitation for registration as a student organization should be extended to the petitioning fraternity or sorority. Once a final decision has been made, all participating petitioning organizations shall be notified in writing and the selected organization shall be invited to register as a social fraternity or sorority at BGSU.
SECTION III: REQUIREMENTS

Article 1: Standing Requirements
A new organization that registers at BGSU through the expansion/re-colonization process, hereafter referred to as a colony, must complete a one year probationary period with its respective governing council. During the probationary period, the colony will have voting privileges in and will be assessed dues as permitted by respective governing council bylaws. After successful completion of the *Greek Community Standards of Excellence* process during the one year probationary period, the colony will become a full or regular member of the respective governing council. If the organization does not meet the Baseline Requirements in the *Greek Community Standards of Excellence*, it will remain in probationary status for an additional year. If the organization fails to meet the Baseline Requirements outlined in the *Greek Community Standards of Excellence* for its first two years, its ability to maintain registration may be revoked by the University.

After being registered as a student organization at the University, a fraternity or sorority is assumed to be in good standing as long as the organization upholds the standards of its national/international organization, the BGSU Student Handbook, Fraternity & Sorority Life/governing council policies and standards, the *Greek Community Standards of Excellence*, and all federal, state, and local laws.

Any violation of standards, policies, regulations will be remedied through the respective governing council and/or the University conduct process. While the governing council cannot suspend University registration, it can choose to recommend that such action by taken by the University.