

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIGMA PI FRATERNITY AND CHAPTERS

This document explains the relationship that exists between Sigma Pi Fraternity (the “Fraternity”) and the Chapters chartered by the Fraternity (the “Chapters”). The document presents the meaning and non-meaning of each Chapter’s self-operation through a charter and power to initiate members into the Chapter, the scope of the Fraternity’s assistance, and the composition of the Fraternity.

The Charter

Each Chapter receives a charter from the Fraternity. This charter is granted by and through the vote of the Fraternity’s Grand Council, which is the governing body – or board of directors – of the Fraternity. When a Chapter receives its charter from the Fraternity, it is granted the right to use the exclusive name, nicknames, logos and insignia of the Fraternity, and in references to each member, and on the Chapter house, as applicable. The charter grants the Chapter the right to recruit and initiate members into the Chapter using the ritual. An initiate into a Chapter also becomes a member of the Fraternity

Leadership, Governance and Operation of the Chapter

Each Chapter functions as a self-operated, self-governed and self-financed group. Specifically, the Chapter is an unincorporated association under the law of the state where it is located and operates itself on a day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month and year-to-year basis. The Chapter selects its own officers, assesses dues it establishes, recruits new members, initiates members, conducts Chapter meetings, encourages fellowship, promotes education, participates as teams in intramural athletics, participates in campus and interfraternity programs, sponsors candidates for school offices, enjoys social events, sends delegates to the Convocation of the Fraternity, leadership conferences and other seminars, maintains a Chapter house and is responsible for financing its own activities. The Chapter operates itself on a day to day basis and is responsible for compliance with all applicable rules and regulations of the college or university where it is located and with all applicable laws of the various governmental bodies, local, state and federal and the Fraternity’s Standards.

Chapter members are adults who have high school degrees and who are attending college; therefore, they are capable and qualified to self-operate, self-govern and self-finance. These members are solely responsible for their personal activities.

Furthermore, the Chapters and members do not expect and have not asked the Fraternity or any affiliated entities to monitor, oversee, direct or attempt to control their daily activities. The Chapters, members, alumni and volunteers should all understand that such a relationship is not contemplated or expected and is not practical and would be impossible to perform, recognizing that over 100 Chapters are usually active throughout the United States and into Canada at any particular point in time. In addition, such a relationship would infringe upon the philosophy and principle that each Chapter and member benefits from the opportunity for self-growth and self-achievement through self-operation and self-discipline.

Chapter Powers & Responsibilities

The relationship between Fraternity and Chapter is not a hierarchy where one is superior to the other or where the Chapters are subordinate to the Fraternity. If anything, the Chapters control the Fraternity through Convocations where Chapters all have the same voting rights, elect Grand Council members, and vote on any amendments to governance documents. In turn, the Chapters commit to each other to pursue

the Fraternity ideals and to abide by the Fraternity's Standards.

Chapter Limitations on Authority

The right to use the Fraternity name, logo and insignia does not give the Chapter or any member the right to sell or re-license the use of the logo or the insignia or the name to third parties, to use the name in any manner which is detrimental to the Fraternity, or contrary to the Standards, or to bind the Fraternity to any agreements or obligations of any nature whatsoever. The Chapter is given a specific Chapter name upon chartering and should always use that Chapter name (i.e. Alpha Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity) when entering into agreements or in its correspondence. Members of a Chapter are never employees, agents or servants of the Fraternity and are ordinarily not in that capacity in regard to the Chapter.

Fraternity Assistance to Chapters

The Fraternity in no way obligates itself to operate a Chapter or to monitor, oversee, supervise or attempt to control the Chapter or its members. That being said, it does offer several programs and assistance dealing with virtually every aspect of undergraduate group living and campus life. These include:

1. Advice and suggestions on such practical matters as the operation and management of a Chapter, the management of Chapter finances, recruitment of membership, scholarship, athletics, philanthropy, risk awareness for Chapter events and educational guidebooks
2. Membership education programs, Chapter officer leadership seminars and other self-development programs.
3. Guidelines for the Chapter's initial organization with suggested provisions, which contain alternatives for the Chapter's decision and use.
4. Access to educational resources, including guidelines and assistance in obtaining speakers.
5. Chapter consultants who are available to talk and correspond with Chapter officers about questions in the areas of Chapter administration and any problems or concerns. In addition, the Chapter consultants may visit the Chapter periodically, and may make suggestions during and after each visit. The Chapter consultant can meet with the college or university staff and can offer assistance in implementing any suggestions for the Chapter.
6. Assistance in the initial recruitment of prospective members for a new Chapter and additional assistance in the Chapter's ongoing recruitment efforts.

These educational materials, guidebooks, suggestions, and advice are NOT mandatory, but advisory, as one type of best practices gleaned from other Chapters' experiences.

Other Benefits to Chapter

Chapters may enjoy other benefits by virtue of its relationship with Fraternity, including:

1. Receipt of the Fraternity's biannual publication, The Emerald.
2. Receipt of the Fraternity's e-newsletter, The Sigma Pi Quarterly
3. Assistance in alumni association organization and operations. Awards and recognition of Chapters for achievement in campus leadership, scholarship, intramural athletics and overall performance.

4. Invitation to attend leadership conferences for undergraduate student leaders and interested alumni and other advisors to the Chapters.
5. Assistance in developing community service programs in public relations.
6. Guidance in selection and consultation with various advisors, including alumni advisors, resident advisors and faculty advisors.
7. Assistance to the Chapter and its alumni and other interested persons to obtain housing, including an opportunity for lease guarantees which meet prudent business standards.
8. Guidance to the Chapter's members in applying for educational grants and scholarships, subject to availability.

Activity that Jeopardizes Chartered Status

If the Chapter or its members violate the law or the rules and regulations of the host school or the Fraternity or the Fraternity's Standards, the Chapter runs the risk that the Fraternity will exercise its rights to terminate the charter or to terminate the individual's membership. The responsibility to avoid these violations is the Chapter's and each of its members. Any hazing of new members as a condition of membership or a "hell week" are types of activities which violate the Fraternity's Standards. If those events occur, they are done against the Fraternity's Standards and could subject the Chapter to loss of its charter and individuals to potential civil and criminal liability. Such violations are most often the result of an aberrational individual conduct of a member which is not authorized by the Chapter and is contrary to the Fraternity's Standards.

Alcohol or drug abuse or violation of any applicable statute, regulation or law regarding the same; sexual abuse or the commission of crimes or violation of school rules and regulations or statutes and ordinances of the city, county or state where the Chapter is located; or violation of federal law can result in the loss of the Chapter's charter and the potential loss of membership for the responsible individuals.