

Guidelines for Extending Assistance to Struggling Chapters *(with the Ethic Statement Regarding the Closing of a Chapter for Non-Disciplinary Reasons)*

[Adopted December 4, 1999; based on resolution adopted December 2, 1983, dealing strictly with women's fraternities]

In order to better inform students, parents, alumni/ae, advisors and inter/national organizations, the following are offered as guidelines when working with chapters that are struggling:

1. University Commitments

- Provide clear and specific chapter status reports to inter/national officers, including specific statistics on membership and chapter operations. Use comparative data for a five-year period.
- Provide chapter evaluations to visiting inter/national officers.
- Provide guidance to the inter/national fraternities/sororities in developing plans and programs to help chapters resolve their problems.
- Provide information regarding existing university requirements for continued recognition to chapters and inter/national officers.
- Offer available resources within the university to help in resolving chapter problems. Provide lists of resources to the chapter, including both students and alumni/ae leadership.
- Provide an annual evaluation of the chapter. Include the status of the following areas: recruitment, member education, leadership development, academic status, fiscal management, alumni/ae involvement, retention, and any other appropriate areas.
- Have a six-month evaluation meeting with critical chapters. Summarize results in writing.

2. Inter/national Organization Commitments

- Communicate in an open manner with the university, alumni/ae and chapter.
- Provide reasonable performance expectations and goals to the chapter.
- Provide a statement on closing policies to the university, alumni/ae and chapter.
- Provide written documentation to university of visits, communications, and results; include the status of all operational and administrative areas involving the chapter.
- Provide trained personnel to work with the chapter.
- Work with the fraternity/sorority advisor to implement the plan of action in order to remedy the situation.
- Advise the college/university and the fraternity/sorority advisor of any probation imposed on the chapter and the reason for probation.

Ethic Statement Regarding the Closing of a Chapter for Non-Disciplinary Reasons

There is no way to remove a chapter without causing hurt and disappointment on the part of every person involved. It is necessary that colleges/universities and inter/national organizations work together in insuring that all persons involved have been treated fairly, objectively, and honestly, along with significant consideration given to the issue of whether the collegiate members are having a positive experience. Lastly, a clear definition of the role of each area involved in a struggling chapter is necessary to assure a fair solution to the problem of chapter success.