

Resolution Regarding Auxiliary Organizations

[Adopted December 4, 1999; based on previously adopted resolutions from December 1993 and December 1988]

Whereas, the sponsorship of and the participation in auxiliary organizations, commonly referred to as “little sister” or “little brother” programs is inconsistent with the purpose and the philosophy of single-gender social fraternal organizations; and

Whereas, these auxiliary groups detract, in numerous ways, from the mission and founding principles of fraternities and sororities and their respective inter/national constitutions and by-laws; and

Whereas, such organizations divert time and energy of the chapter members from essential chapter operations and can create conflict and divisiveness within the chapter; and

Whereas, the existence of such groups that offer a subservient or "second class" status to members promotes inequality and violates the intent of the Title IX exemption that allows fraternities and sororities to operate as single-gender organizations; and

Whereas, the structure of such auxiliary organizations creates the potential for and increases the opportunities for inappropriate behavior or wrongful misconduct defined by state and federal laws, including demeaning and sexist activities, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse; and

Whereas, such auxiliary organizations promote negative stereotypes of men and women which are contrary to student development models; and

Whereas, the existence of these groups creates significant legal liabilities for sponsoring chapters, especially with regard to activities involving alcoholic beverages, because the chapter may be held liable for the actions of auxiliary organization members (who are not included in a chapter's liability insurance coverage); and

Whereas, such groups do not fall under the traditional campus or alumni supervisory roles, and the extent of accountability is unclear; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Association of Fraternity Advisors urges campus administrators, student governing councils of fraternities and sororities, and national/international fraternity and sorority organizations to work collaboratively to develop and actively enforce policies that prohibit fraternities and sororities from sponsoring auxiliary organizations.