

UMBC Greek Life Expansion Process

Greek Life Mission – The UMBC Greek Community believes in respect and equality for all its members; providing brotherhood and sisterhood through service, scholarship, and leadership opportunities that contribute to and improve the college experience.

Expansion Committee

UMBC supports a vibrant Greek Life on campus, and when considering expansion we recognize the need to be realistic given our size, population, and resources. This process was created by students and staff at UMBC with the best interest of our students and the existing Greek community in mind. UMBC does not permit local chapters to exist on campus.

Purpose: To consider campus readiness for Greek community growth and to decide whether or not certain chapters will benefit the Greek community and UMBC in consultation with the Vice President and Assistant Vice Presidents for Student Affairs.

Membership: President or representative from each Greek council (IFC, NPHC, PHA, MGC), Coordinator for Greek Life, OSL staff member, staff member nominated by the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, and a representative of the Student Government Association.

Duties: Prior to or at the beginning of each academic year, the Committee meets to discuss and make recommendations regarding whether the University and Greek community can support expansion efforts. The committee utilizes multiple factors in making this determination, including but not limited to; success of the last three colonies; recruitment/intake statistics; and human, financial, and facility resources. The recommendation is given to the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs who will make the final decision about whether expansion will occur. In the event that expansion will be pursued, the Committee will follow the procedure below to determine the specific organization(s) invited to campus.

Process: A 2/3 vote of the committee members present will be required to make a decision. Voting may only occur when there is quorum, which is established as 50% of the committee membership.

Meetings: The Expansion Committee meets once a month during the academic calendar year (around the 15th of each month).

Criteria for consideration to be in the Greek community at UMBC

The Greek Life Expansion Committee has established the following criteria to determine which organizations need to go through the Greek Life Expansion Process and those organizations that may pursue recognition through SGA directly.

A student organization is presumed to be a Greek Life organization if *any* of the following statements is true:

1. The organization is affiliated with a (inter)national organization affiliated with the National Panhellenic Conference, National Pan-Hellenic Council, National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations or North American Interfraternity Conference, or could qualify for membership in one of these organizations.
2. The organization prohibits simultaneous membership in any other organization affiliated with the National Panhellenic Conference, National Pan-Hellenic Council, National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations or North American Interfraternity Conference.
3. The organization restricts membership and uses some subjective (i.e., non-academic) criteria in evaluating potential members' fitness for membership and initially grants probationary membership rather than full membership, and has secret rituals associated with becoming a member.
4. The organization restricts membership to a single sex and uses some subjective (i.e., non-academic) criteria in evaluating potential members' fitness for membership, and represents itself using letters of the Greek alphabet.

Recognition

A new Greek Life organization must be approved through the Greek Life process for adding new chapters before seeking recognition from SGA and the Office of Student Life as an official UMBC student organization.

Procedure for Seeking Recognition at UMBC (Expansion)

All groups seeking recognition in Greek Life at UMBC must:

- Have ability to acquire \$1 million dollar insurance policy;
- Hold "national organization" status or agree to only seek out "national organizations"; and,
- Agree to abide by all UMBC, SGA, OSL, and Greek Life rules and regulations.

A. Current Students who are Interested in Expansion

- i. Students wishing to (re)colonize a chapter of a (inter)national men's or women's fraternity or sorority should write a **letter of intent** highlighting the specific group they wish to bring to UMBC; the (inter)national organization's website address; any local alumnae with whom they made contact; and the names of at least five current UMBC students who are interested in being a part of the organization. These students must have a minimum individual GPA of at least a 2.5 and a minimum group GPA of at least a 2.8. One student should be identified as the main contact person regarding recognition of the organization. All five of the interested students must meet fraternity/sorority standards for initiation and be eligible and plan to return to UMBC the following year. Additionally, the letter should explain how this organization will benefit the UMBC community, specifically Greek Life, and why UMBC is ready for expansion to this particular group. A letter or email showing the support of the (inter)national organization should be attached to

the letter of intent. Letters should be submitted to the Coordinator of Greek Life.

- ii. The UMBC Expansion Committee will **convene and review** the letter of intent and based on presence of required components will invite or not invite the interested students and the (inter)national fraternity/sorority to prepare a presentation for the Expansion Committee. If the Committee determines that (re)colonization is not appropriate at that time, the student(s), alumni(ae) contact(s), and (inter)national organization will be notified with recommendations for the future.
- iii. If the Expansion Committee invites a group to do a **presentation**, the students, (inter)national organization contact and alumni(ae) should prepare the following:
 1. Overview of the (inter)national organization – purpose and values/principles of the fraternity/sorority; alumni(ae) advisor training; membership education program and philosophy; new officer training information
 2. Copies of the (inter)national organizations constitution, by-laws, and other guiding documents
 3. Strength of alumni(ae) in the Baltimore/Washington area
 4. The colonization process
 5. Number of chapters lost in the last year (regionally and nationally)
 6. Number of colonies starting at this same time
 7. Financial stability of (inter)national organization
 8. Financial support for this specific colony
 9. Leadership development opportunities for members
 10. What this specific organization will bring to UMBC
 11. Plans for sustainability; membership development

The student contact, a representative from the (inter)national office, and/or a designated local alumni(ae) who would serve as the alumni(ae) contact or advisor to the group, at a minimum, should make the presentation. Other interested students and local alumni(ae) may attend the presentation at the discretion of the presenting fraternity/sorority so long as the number at the presentation does not exceed seven people (not including the Expansion Committee).

- iv. After the presentation, the Expansion Committee will determine a recommendation (to be submitted to the AVP for Student Affairs/ Director of Student Life) for whether or not to invite the group to **(re)colonize a chapter and be recognized** at UMBC. If a positive recommendation is made (and approved), the group must submit a constitution and registration form to the Office of Student Life for SGA recognition. The establishing chapter will be permitted a maximum of 1 semester to submit these documents; however, for the most expeditious recognition, these documents should be submitted by the

second week of the following semester. (The group should work with the Coordinator for Greek Life in order to gain access to meeting space.)

If a negative recommendation is made (and approved), the student contact, (inter)national organization and alumni(ae) contact will be notified. Groups that are turned down for recognition may not initiate this process again for at least one year from the date of presentation.

- v. Newly colonized or recognized chapters will have one semester of “probationary” status after they receive SGA recognition. The probationary status will allow new fraternities and sororities the opportunity to learn about Greek Life at UMBC and to become fully integrated into and familiar with the Greek community and expectations. This means members will attend Chapter President meetings, Council meetings, and other Greek Life meetings and functions, but probationary status organizations will not have voting privileges. Additionally, probationary status groups will be permitted to go through recruitment for new members and have the privileges of other SGA recognized groups (example: reserving space, setting up on campus account, access to event advising).

* Groups that obtain SGA recognition during the 4th week of a semester will be on probation for the remainder of that semester. Groups gaining SGA recognition during the 11th week of a semester will be on probation for the remainder of that semester and the entirety of the following semester. (Official recognition only happens during the 4th and 11th week of the semester.)

B. (Inter)National Organization Seeks Recognition at UMBC

- i. (Inter)National organizations wishing to start a chapter at UMBC must first contact the Coordinator of Greek Life with a letter of intent on official organization letterhead. The letter should include the (inter)national organization’s website address and names and contact information for local alumni(ae) who are supportive of starting a chapter at UMBC. Additionally, the letter should explain how this organization will benefit the UMBC community, specifically Greek Life, and why UMBC is ready for expansion to this particular group.
- ii. The UMBC Expansion Committee will convene and review the letter of intent and decide whether or not to invite the (inter)national organization representatives to prepare a presentation for the Expansion Committee. If the Committee determines that (re)colonization is not appropriate at this time, a letter will be submitted to the (inter)national organization representative.
- iii. If the Expansion Committee invites a group to do a **presentation**, the (inter)national organization should prepare the following:
 1. Overview of the (inter)national organization – purpose and values/principles of the fraternity/sorority; alumni(ae) advisor training;

- membership education program and philosophy; new officer training information
- 2. Copies of the (inter)national organizations constitution, by-laws, and other guiding documents
- 3. Strength of alumni(ae) in the Baltimore/Washington area
- 4. The colonization process
- 5. Number of chapters lost in the last year (regionally and nationally)
- 6. Number of colonies starting at this same time
- 7. Financial stability of (inter)national organization
- 8. Financial support for this specific colony
- 9. Leadership development opportunities for members
- 10. What this specific organization will bring to UMBC
- 11. Plans for sustainability; membership development

A representative from the (inter)national office and/or a designated local alumni(ae) who would serve as the alumni(ae) contact or advisor to the group should make the presentation.

- iv. After the presentation, the Expansion Committee will determine a recommendation (to be submitted to the AVP for Student Affairs/ Director of Student Life) for whether or not to invite the group to **(re)colonize a chapter and be recognized** at UMBC. If a positive recommendation is made (and approved), the (inter)national organization will be given specific guidelines about the time period in which they may be on campus recruiting members. At the end of the semester in which the (inter)national organization has begun recruiting members, the organization must have at least 5 student members, all of whom are eligible and planning to return to UMBC the following semester. (While in this process, the national organization should work with the Coordinator for Greek Life to schedule interest meetings and recruitment efforts.)

If a negative recommendation is made (and approved), the student contact, (inter)national organization and alumni(ae) contact will be notified. Groups that are turned down for recognition may not initiate this process again for at least one year from the date of presentation.

- v. The group must submit a constitution and registration form to the Office of Student Life for SGA recognition. The establishing chapter will be permitted a maximum of 1 semester to submit these documents; however, for the most expeditious recognition, these documents should be submitted by the second week of the following semester.

** Student groups other than recognized fraternities and sororities who engage in activities restricted to fraternities/sororities will be prohibited from the expansion process for a minimum of 2 years and individual students may be referred for judicial action.

** If the (inter)national organization declines to support or recognize a group at any point in the process, the group will not be recognized by UMBC.

Recognition Renewal

Groups must adhere to other Office of Student Life policies in order to continue to receive recognition every year. To review these documents please contact the Coordinator for Greek Life at (410) 455-3319, cgioia@umbc.edu or go to the Greek Life website at www.umbc.edu/greek.