

## 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.*

### **I. 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.*

A. **Purpose:** To consider campus readiness for Greek community growth and make recommendations to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Student Life as to which organizations will most benefit the Greek community and provide reasons why based on various factors .

B. **Membership:** President or representative from each Greek council (IFC, NPHC, PHA, MGC), Coordinator for Greek Life, OS� staff member, University staff member appointed by the Director of Student Life, and a representative of the Student Government Association.

C. **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 expansion efforts; recruitment/intake statistics; and human, financial, and facility resources. The recommendation is given to the Director of Student Life 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.

D. **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.

E. **Meetings:** The Expansion Committee meets at least once a month during the academic calendar year (around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month).

### **II. Criteria for Expansion Consideration**

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 organization if *any* of the following statements is true:

- A. The organization is affiliated with a (inter)national organization that is a member of 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.
- B. The organization prohibits simultaneous membership in any other organization that is a member of the National Panhellenic Conference, National Pan-Hellenic Council, National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations or North American Interfraternity Conference.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.

### **III. Recognition**

A new Greek 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. All groups or individuals interested in expansion should follow the steps outlined below.

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.

Note: Greek organizations that have recently lost recognition must wait a minimum of one year from the day the organization lost recognition before they can initiate the expansion process to regain recognition.

#### **A. Submit letter of interest to Coordinator of Greek Life**

Any group (either national organization or students) should write a letter of interest highlighting the group they wish to bring to UMBC and how this group will benefit the UMBC and Greek community.

If coming from UMBC students the letter should include the organization's website, names of all interested students, and local alumnae or Headquarter staff contact information. All interested students must have a minimum individual GPA of at least a 2.5 and a group GPA of at least at 2.8, meet the organization's standards for membership, and plan to return to UMBC the following year. A letter or email showing the support of the inter(national) organization must be attached.

If coming from a (inter)national organization the letter should be submitted on official organization letterhead and include organization's website address, names and contact information for local alumni(ae) who will support the chapter and how the (inter)national organization will/could support a chapter at UMBC.

#### B. Review of Interest letter

The UMBC Expansion Committee will **convene and review** the letter of interest and based on presence of required components will invite or not invite the appropriate constituents to prepare a presentation for the Expansion Committee. If the Committee determines that (re)colonization is not appropriate at that time, the contact people listed on the letter will be notified with recommendations for the future.

#### C. Invite for Presentation

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 local 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

If the process is being initiated by students, then a student, local alumni(ae) and possibly a Headquarters staff person should make the presentation. If the process is being initiated by the organization, then local alumni(ae), regional leadership or Headquarters staff person and possibly interested students at UMBC should make the presentation. Other constituents may attend as long as it does not exceed seven people (not including the Committee.)

#### D. Recommendation made to Director of Student Life

After the presentation, the Expansion Committee will determine a recommendation (to be submitted to the Director of Student Life) for whether or not to invite the group to **(re)colonize a chapter and be recognized** at UMBC. Once a decision has been made by the Director of Student Life, the contact person(s) will be notified via email.

If a recommendation to colonize the chapter is made and approved, the group must submit a constitution and registration form to the Office of Student Life for SGA recognition within 6 weeks of receiving the letter. Inter(national) organizations will be

given one semester (15 weeks) to recruit interested students. Until the group receives official SGA recognition, they should work with the Coordinator for Greek Life in order to gain access to meeting space.

If a decision not to (re)colonize a chapter is made and approved, the group may not initiate this process again for at least one year from the date of presentation.

#### E. Probationary Status

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 attend Chapter President meetings, Council meetings, and other Greek Life meetings and functions, but probationary status organizations will not have voting privileges. 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).

\*\* 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](mailto:cgioia@umbc.edu) or go to the Greek Life website at [www.umbc.edu/greek](http://www.umbc.edu/greek).