

STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN  
RENSSELAER  
AND  
SOCIAL FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

REPORT OF  
THE TASK FORCE ON INSTITUTE-GREEK  
RELATIONS

Adopted April 1, 1991

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#### Preamble

Rensselaer, a private institution of higher learning, and the Greek Community, a fraternal system of students, alumni, and volunteers devoted to social and scholastic endeavors and service, have a long and fruitful tradition of cooperation. We, as Rensselaer and the Greek community, acknowledge the necessity to foster, nurture, support and initiate university and civic programs which continue to enhance our image and role in the entire community.

Rensselaer recognizes the contributions by the Greek system as an important asset in the development of the students, and as a vital element in maintaining and enhancing relations with the larger Troy community. The Greek Community recognizes the encouragement and support by Rensselaer.

Rensselaer's rich and dynamic history records Greek life as a vibrant, productive, unique and essential part of our tradition. More than one-third of the students each year enter fraternities to share and develop academic, professional, social, leadership, managerial and athletic skills. Fraternal bonds persist long after graduation. They contribute actively to the preservation of the history and folklore of, and ultimately in the support of, Rensselaer. The Greek Community's involvement in charity, volunteer and leadership work in the Troy community has earned public statements of recognition by civic leaders. Rensselaer applauds the valuable contribution Greek life has made, and will continue to make to the students, to Rensselaer, to the City of Troy and to the country.

Independence and self-government with social and financial responsibility are the very principles which form, enhance and preserve the

foundation of highly respected institutions and organizations. The Greek system at Rensselaer seeks to install these principles in its membership while simultaneously supporting Rensselaer's mission through fostering and stimulating amongst its members excellence in scholarship.

The roles of individuals, groups, and the community at large are changing rapidly in modern society. We need to work deliberately to balance these trends with ever stronger social bonds of our own making. Planning is essential. We forge this document with the intent to unite us in a common purpose of cooperation with the goal of achieving excellence while preserving the rights, independence and integrity of Rensselaer and the Greek Community.

The Rensselaer administration, the Greek alumni, and the undergraduate brothers and sisters have concluded that the Greek system at Rensselaer is a positive asset to campus life. The goal is to strengthen and enhance our system. This relationship statement is conceived as the foundation of a continuing process of seeking excellence to which both Rensselaer and the Greek Community will contribute. It is agreed that there are essential, minimum acts which the signatories must perform under this agreement, and they are referred to with imperative language such as "shall," "must", and "will." Other aspects of the agreement, in accordance with the concept of mutually seeking new and inventive steps of excellence, designate more flexibly agreed intentions with language such as "consider," "encourage," and "expect" The appendices of the agreement are largely hortatory examples and are conceived to be in the more flexible intentions category.

As stated in the Declaration of Support it is further intended by the signatories that this agreement shall be a fundamental expression of their relationship and that other formal or informal expressions are expected to conform to its intent. In particular, the references to fraternities and sororities made in The 1989-90 Edition of the Rensselaer Handbook are deemed to so conform, and it is expected that significant revisions of these references will be made through the amendment process of this agreement. Minor revisions may be made through the customary processes of the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils as appropriate.

STATEMENT OF RELATIONSHIP

BETWEEN

RENSSELAER

AND

SOCIAL FRATERNITIES AND  
SORORITIES

Terms of Recognition

Recognition is the formal process by which Rensselaer agrees that a social fraternity/sorority may function on the campus, enroll undergraduate members through established rush activities use campus facilities and services, and identify its chapter with the University. Organizations designated under this policy meet the following characteristics:

They are entitled to single-sex membership under the provisions of Section 86.14 of the regulations promulgated under Title IX of the U.S. Education Act Amendments of 1972.

Chapters are legal corporations external to Rensselaer. In all cases, chapter corporations, alumni corporations and international/national/regional/local Greek organizations are incorporated separately from Rensselaer.

In order for a fraternity or sorority to be recognized by Rensselaer, the organization must:

Operate under a constitution and by-laws which have been approved by the Dean of Students Office and the executive council of the

Panhellenic or the IFC and which adheres to the tenets of Rensselaer's Student Bill of Rights.

Demonstrate sound financial standing.

Be a member of either the Interfraternity or the Panhellenic Council.

Present an initial membership list of at least 11 currently registered, degree-seeking students who are not on academic or disciplinary probation. While Rensselaer recognizes that some organizations draw membership from outside Rensselaer, officers of recognized undergraduate chapters must be current Rensselaer students.

Identify a person, who is not an undergraduate, to serve as the chapter advisor.

Must adhere to this Relationship Statement.

## Stages of Recognition

Full recognition is accorded to chapters which are full members of the IFC or the Panhellenic and in good standing with Rensselaer. Fully recognized chapters are entitled to all the rights, privileges, and Institute resources available to student organizations at Rensselaer as well as all those guaranteed by this document.

Provisional recognition is accorded for a two-year period during the reestablishment of a formerly active chapter or the initial establishment of a new chapter. Provisionally recognized chapters must be associate members of either the Interfraternity or the Panhellenic Council. At the end of this period, the chapter must apply for full recognition or request a further two years of provisional standing. No chapter will be granted provisional recognition for more than four years. Provisionally recognized chapters are entitled to the same benefits and obligations as fully recognized chapters, except those benefits described in the "Housing Plan" section of this document.

Probationary recognition is the conditional withdrawal of certain services or benefits to the chapter, or withdrawal of certain privileges accorded to members of the Interfraternity or Panhellenic councils. Probationary status signifies that a chapter has failed to abide by federal, state, or local laws; by Institute standards, codes and guidelines as described in the The 1989-90 Edition of the Rensselaer Handbook or has violated the policies, codes, or by-laws of its governing council. Probation may be implemented by the Dean of Students Office, according to the guidelines set forth in the student conduct section of The 1989-90 Edition of the Rensselaer Handbook. At the end of a probationary period, a chapter must demonstrate that the conditions of probation were fulfilled, and that measures have been taken to insure that the infraction does not reoccur. Failure to meet these conditions could result in suspension or expulsion.

Suspension is the revocation of all rights, privileges, obligations, and Institute resources available to student organizations at Rensselaer. Suspended chapters may not participate in IFC or Panhellenic or in any of the activities sponsored by either council. The period of suspension may vary according to the policies and guidelines outlined in the The 1989-90 Edition of the Rensselaer Handbook.

Expulsion is the permanent separation from the university without opportunity for reinstatement at any time.

Contractual relationships between Rensselaer and individual Greek corporations regarding ownership, lease, financing, etc. of housing or other real property will not be affected by changes in the recognition status of the active chapter unless defined by said contract(s).

#### Alumni/ae and Advisor Participation

Undergraduates can manage many kinds of campus activities, but fraternity and sorority chapters need alumni participation. This is particularly true when there is real property involved and where the objectives include obtaining continuing financial assistance. While experienced guidance to chapters at times has come from varied quarters, no source can equal the potential of the alumni/ae body.

The alumni are expected to maintain a life-long interest. They have considerable experience with their particular organization, and as such earn the credibility of the actives. Alumni are viewed as team members, provided they respect the actives' prerogatives. Their involvement is not an infringement on the right of the organization to be self-governing, and alumni have an emotional tie to the chapter which cannot be equaled as an incentive to help.

The alumni body often contains a range of skills which can make a management team very rich including law, finance, construction, accounting, organizational development, fund-raising, administration, and public relations. They can conceive a program and direction for the chapter that extends over several student generations, a task which is difficult, if not impossible, for undergraduates alone. For all of these reasons, alumni corporations should be fostered.

The corporate bodies of fraternities and sororities vary considerably. Well-established chapters may have several hundred alumni and elaborate organizational structures. The corporate authority may exist with the alumni officers only or with a board with representatives from alumni, undergraduates and community. In the minimum situation, the chapter advisor may act as the alumni or corporate body. In every case, the Greek organization, which has been recognized through this document, will

designate for itself the officer(s) it wishes to represent its alumni or corporate body.

The Rensselaer Fraternity Manager Association (RFMA) exists for the promotion and maintenance of the welfare and financial well being of its Greek member organizations and as a liaison to the business community by promoting good service and relations. An RFMA that functions well provides direct and indirect benefits to its members and also to non-member Greek organizations. It is an asset to Greeks, Rensselaer and the local community. Membership in the RFMA by Greek organizations will be voluntary.

Another valuable source of chapter guidance is the chapter advisor. The advisor should be involved with the implementation of chapter programs.

Because Rensselaer embraces and desires to foster the essential independence of each fraternal organization, and because both Rensselaer and the undergraduate chapters acknowledge alumni or chosen elders as an invaluable resource, the following conditions must be met:

- Each chapter must register with the Dean of Students Office the name, address, and telephone number of an active chapter advisor. While alumni are encouraged to assume these roles, advisors NEED NOT be initiated members of the organization they represent.
- Advisors or their alumni delegate will attend advisors' meetings as scheduled by the Dean of Students Office or the IFC or Panhellenic councils.
- The advisor or a member of the chapter alumni board will participate with the chapter president and the Dean of Students Office in an annual review of chapter progress.

Rensselaer will:

- Provide at least four meetings/workshops annually on topics of current interest to advisors.
- Publish a newsletter each semester to be distributed to chapter advisors and all members of alumni councils/boards whose names are registered with the Dean of Students Office.
- Invite the chapter advisor to meet with the national visitation officer each semester.

- Provide at least one workshop per year specifically designed for house corporations.

## Standards

The Office of the Dean of Students, in cooperation with the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic, establishes the University Regulations under which fraternities and sororities operate. Standards of conduct are integral to the maintenance of recognition and associated privileges. It is expected that all chapters will abide by Rensselaer Regulations as listed in The 1989-90 Edition of the Rensselaer Handbook and related documents of the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils. The Dean of Students Office will work closely with the IFC, Panhellenic, and the individual house and chapter advisor to ensure that these community accepted standards of behavior are maintained.

Rensselaer endorses the policy known as the "Statement of Fraternal Values and Ethics" adopted by the National Interfraternity Council (see Appendix 1). It will be the responsibility of the IFC, Panhellenic, and the individual houses and chapter advisors, to insure that Greeks conscientiously live up to the code. Rensselaer further encourages compliance with the Fraternity Executives Association's adopted statements of position on:

- Hazing and pre-initiation activities
- Expansion presentation
- Alcohol
- Fundamentals of rushing
- Dry rush

It is encouraged that all chapter members, affiliates, pledges and guests will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Rensselaer standards and the Statements listed above (see Appendix 2).

Chapters should show a strong interest in fraternal and school ideals and promote participation in school and community activities.

Therefore, in order to promote a positive fraternal environment, improve community relations. and enhance the welfare of Rensselaer students

both on and off campus, standards and guidelines have been developed with which all fraternal organizations, their alumni/ae, and Rensselaer are expected to comply.

## NEW MEMBER PROGRAMS

To insure its successful continuation, a chapter must recruit and initiate new members.

- All Rensselaer students, including Freshmen, are able to participate in Rush.
- Formal rush will remain alcohol-free, in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of the Panhellenic Council and the IFC.
- The IFC and Panhellenic will establish policies which regulate rush activities including, but not limited to, those in residence halls.
- All houses must be represented at Rush Chairs meetings.

Chapters will:

- File an articulated new member program which should contain an anti-hazing policy and be kept confidential by the Dean of Students Office.
- Initiate no student on academic probation.
- Adhere to the anti-hazing policies of Rensselaer and the State of New York.
- At least 5 actives (one of whom will be the pledge educator) and ALL new members/pledges should attend the anti-hazing seminars.

Advisors or their qualified alumni alternates will:

Be familiar with and help formulate the chapter's new member program in accordance with the values and tenets of the National and/or local constitution.

Make strong effort to participate in selected Greek activities, such as Summer SO or development of a Parents' Guide to Greek Life.

Make strong effort to participate in and/or assist in coordination of a welcoming event for new Greeks yearly.

Rensselaer will:

Work with IFC and Panhellenic to insure a rush schedule which does not conflict with the academic calendar.

Sponsor an anti-hazing seminar at least once per year.

Provide timely new student home and campus address lists (at cost) to all chapters.

Guarantee time during SO for a Greek Life presentation. The presentation is the responsibility of the presidents of IFC and Panhellenic Council, alumni, and the Dean of Students Office.

Dean of Students Office will coordinate the production of the Parents' Guide to Greek Life in association with chapter advisors, RAA, and IFC/Panhel.

Dean of Students Office will offer rush workshops and new member/pledge workshops to any chapter needing assistance.

Dean of Students Office will compile, coordinate, and make available rush and new member program materials and videotapes for use by individual chapters Upon request.

Dean of Students Office will compile and make available rush statistics at the end of each formal rush period.

## ACADEMICS

A main goal of all collegiate fraternal organizations is to strive for academic excellence. The IFC and Panhellenic Councils will develop and maintain programs to recognize academic achievement and improvement among the individual houses.

Chapters will:

Strive to achieve a chapter average equal to or greater than the all campus average.

Chapters failing to meet the all campus average will develop an articulated scholarship program in conjunction with the Dean of Students

Office, The Learning Center, and the Office of Academic Advising.  
(Chapters at or above the average may receive equivalent service on request.)

Rensselaer will:

Publish grade statistics each semester.

Notify in writing presidents, advisors, and national headquarters.

Notify Nationals and recognize all chapter members achieving Dean's List status.

Provide the scholarship chairperson, with appropriate signed releases, F-test grade information for Freshmen.

Assist the scholarship chairperson in the development of house programs.

Provide workshops for scholarship chairpersons and/or individual chapters as needed.

Provide an award program to encourage academic excellence.

## STABILITY OF GREEK-INSTITUTE RECORDS

Records must be current if we are to adequately communicate with chapters and with nationals.

Chapters will:

Submit all chapter update forms to the Dean of Students Office by the end of the second week of each semester.

For all formal rush periods, submit to the Dean of Students Office list of bids extended by the deadlines established by Panhellenic or IFC.

Submit list of new members, including names, social security numbers, local and home addresses and local and home telephone numbers by established deadlines.

Notify the Dean of Students Office of all new members as bids are accepted or as members are disassociated.

Notify the Dean of Students Office when pledges/associate members are initiated.

The IFC and Panhellenic Council will sponsor an annual workshop for chapter presidents.

Rensselaer will:

Maintain and make available to the Greek organization, a current database which includes names of undergraduate officers, chapter advisors, corporate officer(s), chapter undergraduate membership roster, chapter costs, and overall chapter grade point average. An individual's grades are only available by permission granted to specific individuals. Chapters will verify its information during the 10th week of the semester, though it may be corrected at any time.

Coordinate through the Athletic Department the continuation of the Intramural Sports Program.

Dean of Students Office will serve as advisors to and liaison for the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils.

Provide lists of chapter alumni and addresses as known.

Assist with alumni mailings.

Assist actively in publicizing alumni events.

## CONDUCT

Behavior reflects on the entire system and on Rensselaer. Therefore, certain minimum standards must be maintained. However it is also recognized that the acts of individuals, or groups of individuals, are not necessarily acts of their respective Chapters and such acts shall not be imputed to be acts of said Chapters.

Chapters will:

Maintain membership in IFC/Panhellenic Council and adhere to all the rules, regulations, and policies of said governing body.

Abide by Rensselaer regulations listed in The 1989-90 Edition of the Rensselaer Handbook and related IFC or Panhellenic documents.

Chapters are expected to abide by the tenets of the NIC Statement of Fraternal Values and Ethics, and are responsible for reviewing this document with their membership.

Grant to the Dean of Students and to Rensselaer Public Safety, with proper identification, immediate entry into the common areas of fraternity or sorority property in emergency situations, with the consent of an officer or accompanied by a member of the chapter.

Rensselaer will:

Annually hold a legal liability/risk management workshop.

Offer workshops and written material to aid in the understanding of and adherence to the NIC Statement of Fraternal Values and Ethics.

Offer workshops regarding collection of outstanding debts as requested by fraternities or sororities.

Restrict material and information gathered in emergency visits to the issue they were called to address.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The impression the community has of the Greeks may be greatly improved by simply being good

neighbors.

Chapters will:

Keep houses and grounds clean and free of debris.

Assure that individual conduct of members and guests will not unreasonably affect neighbors.

Monitor all sponsored activities to insure that debris is kept within the house or trash area and that neighbors are not unreasonably disturbed by the event.

List a house manager for both the school year and summer with the Dean of Students Office to act as liaison on matters of house appearance and safety.

Participate in all Greek Neighborhood Relations Committee meetings for their assigned district.

Rensselaer will:

Coordinate and sponsor the Summer House Check Program.

Attend Greek Neighborhood Relations Committee meetings.

Act as liaison when requested by city officials, neighbors or chapters.

## Merit Program

Greeks have traditionally been among the leaders of our nation and of the Rensselaer community. Rensselaer and the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils acknowledge outstanding activities of our Greek chapters, and encourage Greeks to reach new heights of excellence.

Special achievements and outstanding improvements in chapter functioning are indications of that pride.

The Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils will:

Maintain an active awards system to honor the top house in each of several categories: academics, service, sports, and chapter of the year.

Maintain a fraternity man and sorority woman of the year award.

Rensselaer will:

Send letters of congratulation for special achievements to chapters, with copies to advisors and to national offices where applicable.

Submit a monthly article to the Polytechnic highlighting special house achievements.

Consulting with the Greek Community regarding the process of selection and criteria, establish a Rensselaer Award of Excellence program to honor chapters whose activities are truly outstanding (see Appendix 3).

Hold an annual awards ceremony to honor award recipients.

## Insurance and Loss Prevention Standards

### PURPOSE

Rensselaer has established in its community standards with regard to life safety, fire protection and insurance. Rensselaer wishes to extend those standards to the Greek system. This will establish a uniformity throughout the entire organization.

### HOLD HARMLESS

Each Fraternity or Sorority at Rensselaer will agree to hold Rensselaer harmless and indemnify Rensselaer for damages Rensselaer may sustain from contracts the fraternity or sorority enters with anyone other than Rensselaer. Additionally, each party will be held solely responsible for its own negligent acts.

### LIFE SAFETY/FIRE PROTECTION

All Fraternity and Sorority houses at Rensselaer must meet all state and city codes and standards applicable to each building. Each Chapter house owned by Rensselaer or a chapter entity will be inspected annually. These inspections will commence at the start of the fall semester and be concluded no later than October 15. Fraternity and Sorority houses owned by Rensselaer will be inspected by the Office of Loss Prevention. Fraternity and Sorority houses which are not owned by Rensselaer will have the option of having the inspections completed by an outside qualified inspector at their own expense or request the Office of Loss Prevention to conduct these inspections free of charge. Inspections conducted by the Office of Loss Prevention will include a written report with recommendations on all discrepancies concerning life safety and fire hazards. Reports will be forwarded to the chapter presidents and Alumni Corporations, the IFC and Panhellenic Council and the Office of the Dean of Students. Serious hazards and exposures will need to be addressed within 30 days. Reports by outside inspection organizations will also be sent to the Office of Risk Management as well as the above offices. (Form attached. See Appendix 4).

#### SANITATION INSPECTION

The safety of students with respect to illness and disease is important. The chapters will have inspections of food preparation areas done once a semester using procedures similar to the Life Safety inspection discussed above.

#### FIRE DRILLS

The Rensselaer Office of Loss Prevention will conduct a fire drill during the Fall semester for each building utilized as a chapter house by a Greek organization. This is to be done in accordance with procedures arranged in cooperation with the IFC and Panhel. This drill may be repeated if the occupants do not respond in accordance with agreed upon standards.

#### ALARM SYSTEMS

All Greek houses will have a fire alarm system. Institute owned houses will have systems which enunciate directly back to Rensselaer's Office of Public Safety. All privately owned Chapter houses will be required to have a central alarm system installed at the fraternity's/sorority's own expense. Rensselaer will review emergency loan options on a case by case basis. Rensselaer Public Safety will handle alarms in accordance with previously agreed upon procedures.

## HOUSING STANDARDS

All houses will be maintained in livable conditions as outlined in the Occupancy Codes of the City of Troy. Houses found in condition not suitable

for inhabitation will be closed until the discrepancies are rectified. The Institute will provide on-campus housing for the fraternity / sorority members if space is available. Failure to comply with occupancy standard may result in suspension of the chapter.

## INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The following is required for all fraternity and sorority chapters who own and/or maintain properties on or near Rensselaer.

### General Liability Coverage:

A minimum of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury and property damage on a per occurrence basis. It is highly recommended that host liquor liability be included as part of this coverage. Rensselaer and the chapter advisor will be named as additional insured to the policies.

The policies should provide that Rensselaer be notified of any change or cancellation of a policy term with a period of 30 day notice.

A certificate of insurance will be furnished to Rensselaer Office of Risk Management as evidence of coverage.

### Fire and Extended Coverage:

Each fraternity and sorority house not owned by Rensselaer will have insurance for fire and extended insurance coverage on the property with a debris removal clause included. It is recommended each house carry insurance to at least 80% of the full

replacement value of the property. A Certificate of Insurance be furnished to the Rensselaer's Office of Risk Management as evidence of coverage.

## Greek Housing

The Greek system is viewed as a very positive part of student life which has a long lasting impact upon alumni as they reflect on their positive experiences at Rensselaer. From a campus life perspective, the Greeks are involved in various civic minded, volunteer oriented activities that

reflect favorably on Rensselaer as a whole. In addition, the Greeks have provided campus housing that did not require Rensselaer capital investment. Having a "house" is an important part of a chapter's viability. Maintaining, and living in their "own" property cements brother/sisterhood and offers members an important learning experience.

However, the city of Troy's establishment of an Institutional Zone has severely limited space available for Greek housing. Because the condition of each of the houses reflects on the system and also on Rensselaer, houses should be maintained so as to be a source of community pride.

The Greek Housing Plan (see Appendix 5) is proposed to enable Greeks to meet immediate and long range physical plant needs.

Rensselaer and the Greeks will establish an advisory committee which will facilitate communication on proposals and assist in developing plans and standards. The committee will be made up of administration, Greek alumni, and undergraduates. These committee members will be chosen by their respective constituencies, with preference given to those organizations seeking participation in the Housing Plan. In order to qualify for assistance, chapters must support the relationship statement and its standards, and demonstrate financial stability according to prerequisites established by the advisory committee.

Rensselaer acknowledges that our Greeks have always been a good investment. Through the years Rensselaer has provided various forms of loans and financial assistance to Greek chapters. The chapters have always honored their debts. Therefore, for fully recognized chapters, Rensselaer will consider the following options:

- Facilitate renovation for 5 Stacwyck buildings for use as Greek chapter houses as needed.

- Provide suitable Rensselaer owned land for new construction of Greek houses.

- Assist chapters with financial means to obtain financing for \$1+ million houses.

  - Co-sign as a guarantor of payment

  - Ask for first refusal on sale of fraternity/sorority property so that property may be preserved in its current zoning status.

  - Assist Greeks in fund-raising for housing.

  - Assist in Renovation and Maintenance Plans.

The Dean of Students Office will act as the system advocate for groups seeking housing. This assistance includes, but is not limited to, giving advice, acting as liaison though departments at Rensselaer, and assisting in

the securing of the necessary approvals. A decision by Rensselaer will be made within one year of initial application date whether to grant the housing request.

Rensselaer, as a landlord, will make repairs and renovations only after consultation with the House Corporation or Alumni Organization of the Chapter involved. Further, Chapter Houses or land leased to Greek Chapters will be retained as Greek Housing as long as the current Chapter requires its use. If a Chapter no longer needs the property, preference will be given to other Greek Chapters.

### Annual Review

Each chapter will undergo an annual review of status during March or April. The chapter president, the chapter advisor, and a representative of the Dean of Students Office will review the progress of the chapter and make recommendations for future direction.

Representatives of the IFC, Panhel, and Dean of Students Office will develop an audit form reflecting the requirements of this Relationship Statement plus the expectations or recommendations.

When an appointment is made for a formal review, the Chapter and Dean's Office should briefly identify significant deficiencies and strengths for the other's information.

The chapter president and chapter advisor will meet with a representative of the Dean of Students to review the Deans' file, the audit form,

and to discuss the progress of the chapter during the year, and possible courses of action for the upcoming year. The chapter is not subject to disciplinary action if they have conscientiously endeavored to implement the plan of action filed the previous year.

The Dean of Students will review the Relationship Statement with the chapter to determine where improvements or changes are needed.

A written summary of the outcomes of the review signed by all of the participating parties will be sent to the chapter. A copy will remain on file in the Dean of Students Office.

Chapters found not adhering to one or more of the requirements of this document will be required to file a written plan of specific actions to correct deficiencies. The plan must be signed by the chapter executive board and by the chapter advisor, and must be submitted to the Dean of Students Office before the opening of classes Fall semester.

Chapters deemed deficient in the same area or to have multiple deficiencies at least two consecutive years, and those chapters failing to file a corrective plan of action by opening of Fall term are subject to disciplinary action through the Dean of Students and may be placed on probation.

- Chapters objecting to the annual review outcome or a resulting penalty may refer the case to the Greek Judicial Board. The case then enters the judicial process as outlined in The 1989-90 Edition of the Rensselaer.

The Dean of Students will notify the national office as applicable for chapters shown to meet or exceed all minimum expectations at review.

## Ratification and Amendment

### RATIFICATION

On the part of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, signature of the Declaration of Support by an officer of Rensselaer authorized to do so by the Board of Trustees and the President.

On the part of the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council, each separately, signature of the Declaration of Support by both the active chapter and the alumni body, or in the absence of an alumni body, the advisory group, of two-thirds of the member fraternities or sororities. A chapter will not be counted as in the affirmative unless its actives and alumni branches both so signify. The active and alumni officers signing for a fraternity will aver that they are doing so with the support of their respective organizations according to their constitutional procedures.

### AMENDMENT

Amendments may be proposed by any signatory for the same process of adoption as initial ratification of the agreement.

### Declaration of Support

The organization whose signature appears below acknowledges that its membership has read and agrees to the relationship with Rensselaer as set forth in this Statement of Relationship. The organization shall be a member of and abide by the rules of the Interfraternity Council or

Panhellenic of Rensselaer. It affirms that it is an independent organization, not an agent or employee of Rensselaer and that it understands that Rensselaer does not operate or control it or the Interfraternity Council or the Panhellenic and that neither of these are Rensselaer's agents or employees.

This Relationship Statement is an agreement and it constitutes the entire agreement between the undersigned organization and Rensselaer concerning their relationship with each other. It supersedes all prior written or oral agreements regarding such relationship and may not be amended except in writing.

## APPENDIX I

### NATIONAL INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF FRATERNAL VALUES AND ETHICS

#### BASIC EXPECTATIONS

In an effort to lessen the disparity between fraternity ideals and individual behavior and to personalize these ideals in the daily undergraduate experience, the following Basic Expectations of fraternity membership have been established.

I will know and understand the ideals expressed in my fraternity Ritual and will strive to incorporate them in my daily life.

I will strive for academic achievement and practice academic integrity.

I will respect the dignity of all persons; therefore, I will not physically, mentally, psychologically, or sexually abuse or haze any human being.

I will protect the health and safety of all human beings.

I will respect my property and the property of others; therefore, I will neither abuse nor tolerate the abuse of property.

I will meet my financial obligations in a timely manner.

I will neither use nor support the use of illegal drugs, I will neither abuse nor support the abuse of alcohol.

I acknowledge that a clean and attractive environment is essential to both physical and mental health; therefore, I will do all in my power to see that the chapter property is properly cleaned and maintained.

I will challenge all my fraternity members to abide by these fraternal expectations and will confront those who violate them.

## APPENDIX 2

### Fraternity Executives Association

#### Statement of Position

#### on Hazing and Pre-Initiation Activities

The Fraternity Executives Association has stated that its position, periodically, in support of constructive educational and inspirational programs and has asserted unequivocally its opposition to hazing and pre-initiation activities which do not contribute to the positive development and welfare of pledge and members.

Because hazing and other pseudo-initiation practices have not been rejected and eradicated completely in undergraduate activities and therefore remain a menace to the well-being of the College Fraternity System, the Fraternity Executives Association reaffirms and reasserts its position on this question.

The Association believes that true fraternalism is nurtured in an atmosphere of social and moral responsibility, respect for duly constituted authority, and loyalty to the principles of higher education.

The Association further believes that while social behavior cannot be legislated, a fraternity without morally sound precepts and practices is not a constructive influence upon college men.

The Association further believes that a fraternity has a solemn obligation in the development of its pledges and members and that this

responsibility extends alike to the institutions where it is represented; to parents and others who make possible the education of pledges and members; to the communities where chapters are accountable for good citizenship; and to the college fraternity system of which it is a part.

The Association further believes, despite the fact that much progress has been made, that one of the most damaging instruments to the fraternity system is the employment of a program of education, which includes hazing, and that this unproductive, ridiculous and hazardous custom has no rightful place in the fraternity system.

The Association defines hazing as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities and situations include paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside the confines of the house; wearing, publicly, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution.

## Fraternity Executives Association

### Statement of Position

#### on Expansion Presentations

On the basis of its experience, the Fraternity Executives Association, Incorporated, believes that the evaluation by appropriate college officials and/or an IFC, of a general fraternity, for expansion to a campus should:

- be open to all fraternities not currently represented on the campus;
- exclude costly multi-media presentations, financial and housing commitments and political influence;

- recognize that the size of a general fraternity or the number of local alumni is not an indication of that fraternity's ability to administer an

expansion project;  
respect the right of any organized college group to seek affiliation with the fraternity of its choice;  
recognize the constitutional rights of a general fraternity to expand to a campus as guaranteed by the freedom of association provisions of the United States Constitution.

The Fraternity Executives Association, Incorporated, therefore states its support for open, unrestricted expansion for all college and university fraternity systems, and encourages interfraternity councils and member fraternities to move toward such a program.

## Fraternity Executives Association

### Statement of Position

#### on Alcohol

While the moderate and legal consumption of alcohol, in and of itself, does not constitute a problem when conducted, in a mature, socially responsible atmosphere, the illegal use and abuse of alcoholic beverages are widely recognized as a major problem in our society. As responsible members of society, particularly the higher education community, college fraternities are highly concerned about alcohol abuse.

Considering that the majority of students on any college campus are underage, the purchase of alcohol, and in most cases its consumption, is illegal for the majority of the campus student population. Typically, fraternity membership is lower in average than the campus in general, making alcohol illegal for the majority of chapter members.

In its Statement of Position on Dry Rush, the Fraternity Executives Association, Inc., has stated its belief that excessive and/or illegal use of alcohol to attract young men to fraternity membership is counterproductive to introducing and developing true brotherhood. Believing this to be true to the concept of brotherhood on the broader scale and considering recent state laws across the country which have made alcohol illegal for the majority of chapter membership, the Fraternity Executives Association takes the following position on alcohol in the life of a fraternity.

1. The possession, use, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages while on chapter premises during an official fraternity event, or in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the fraternity chapter, must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws of the state, province, county, city, and university.

1. No alcohol should be present at any pledge/associate member/novice program or activity of the chapter.

1. No chapter should permit, tolerate, encourage, or participate in "drinking games."

1. The image of a fraternity is not enhanced by the co-sponsorship of an event with an alcohol distributor, or tavern, and therefore, this type of activity should be actively discouraged.

1. Open parties, meaning those with unrestricted access by non-members of the fraternity, without specific invitation, are counterproductive to the interests of the fraternity chapter and the fraternity system, and should be actively discouraged.

1. With less than half of the members of the average fraternity chapter legally able to consume alcohol beverages, it is believed by the Fraternity Executives Association that alcoholic beverages should not be purchased through the chapter treasury nor purchased for members or guests in the name of or on behalf of the chapter.

1. The fraternity with its important responsibility to the development of its youngest members should not permit chapter members, collectively or individually, to purchase, serve, or sell alcoholic beverages to any minor (i.e., those under legal drinking age).

The members of the Fraternity Executives Association, Inc., who serve as the chief administrative or executive officers of their college fraternal associations, believing that the long-term health and beneficial nature of the American college fraternity system is dependent upon responsible actions by student members of the system, hereby encourage and actively recommend that the concepts set forth in this Statement of Position on Alcohol be actively promoted and communicated with the college communications across North America and that each member of the Fraternity Executives Association actively support these concepts in principle, in spirit, and in philosophy to the betterment of the American college fraternity system.

Fraternity Executives Association

Statement of Position

on the Fundamentals of Rushing

On the basis of experience and collected data, the Fraternity Executives Association, Incorporated believes that those systems of rushing are most productive and beneficial which:

- exclude the use of alcohol;
- are "open," without restrictive regulations;
- are individual and personal in approach;
- are open to all, without registration or charges;
- minimize interfraternity and chapter expenses;
- emphasize useful information;
- start at the earliest time and continue throughout the calendar year;
- encourage participation of upperclass, transfer and graduate men.

The Fraternity Executives Association, Incorporated will be pleased to provide advisory services to any interfraternity organization which wishes to evaluate its current rushing program.

Fraternity Executives Association

Statement of Position

on Dry Rush

While the moderate and legal consumption of alcohol, in and of itself, does not constitute a problem, the illegal use and abuse of alcoholic beverages is widely recognized as a major problem in our society. As members of society, particularly the higher education community, college fraternities are highly concerned about alcohol abuse. The Fraternity Executives Association, Incorporated, therefore encourages the development of educational programs which stress the potential dangers of alcohol abuse and the advantages of responsible, legal use of alcoholic beverages.

Since the period of member recruitment is the first substantive contact a prospective member has with fraternities, it is an important and appropriate point at which to begin to address fraternities' educational and brotherhood responsibilities among their members, as well as to speak to any adverse public opinion as to alcohol use and abuse among fraternities.

Based on the premise that the excessive and/or illegal use of alcohol to attract young men to fraternity membership is counterproductive to introducing and developing true brotherhood, the Fraternity Executives Association, Incorporated believes that DRY RUSH:

- will attract a greater number of high quality rushees, and improve the retention ratio of new members;
- will enhance the fraternity movement on the campus and in the community;
- will enhance parental support of fraternity membership;
- will foster creative competition among fraternity chapters;
- will develop more fully the recruitment and interpersonal skills of fraternity members;
- will diminish the risk of potential legal liability, property damage, and violation of liquor laws;
- will save substantial sums of money.

The Fraternity Executives Association, Incorporated, therefore, states its supports of Dry Rush for all college and university fraternity systems, and encourages interfraternity councils and member fraternities to move immediately toward the complete elimination of alcohol in recruitment programs.

### APPENDIX 3

#### RENSSELAER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

##### Award Criteria

Rensselaer wishes to promote excellence among Greek chapters. The Rensselaer Award of Excellence has been established in order for Rensselaer to recognize outstanding achievement in all chapters meeting the award criteria including, as a minimum, the standards set forth in the Relationship Statement.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Develop and maintain a house incentive program to promote scholarship.

Monitor grades for all freshman affiliates and/or pledges through Office of Academic

Advising.

Achieve a house QPA at or above the all-school average for each of the last two consecutive semesters.

Hold a scholarship seminar for chapter members each semester. (The Learning Center, the Office of Academic Advising or the Dean of

Students Office could provide suitable speakers.)

Have a quiet area within the house for study or enforce quiet hours.

## MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Fraternities should recruit and admit for membership new members equal to or greater than 15 or 1/3 of current membership. Sororities are expected to meet their quota.

Hold only dry rush events.

Sponsor no rush functions with themes which discriminate against or otherwise demean individuals or groups for their sex, race or sexual preference.

## NEW MEMBER EDUCATION

Adhere to all standards listed in the new member section of the relationship document.

Have new members review and critique the program after initiation/admission of each class.

Initiate at least 85% of associate/pledge members within one year of their affiliation.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Adhere to all policies of the IFC or Panhellenic Council as well as those of Rensselaer as stated in The 1989-90 Edition of the Rensselaer Handbook.

Have no verified incident reports or judicial violations against the chapter during the course of the school year.

## IFC/PANHELLENIC PARTICIPATION

Be a dues-paid member of the appropriate council.  
Attend all council meetings.  
Participate in all council sponsored events/projects.  
Attend all workshops or seminars held or sponsored by Panhellenic or IFC or Dean of Students Office.

#### CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Hold a faculty reception of function each semester or invite at least one faculty/staff guest to a Chapter event each week.

Demonstrate that at least 25% of your membership is active in at least one other recognized campus organization.

Participate in annual President's dinner.

#### SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY

Participate in projects sponsored by IFC/Panhellenic.

Sponsor at least one house project each semester.

Raise at least \$25.00/member/year for charity.

Donate 10 hours of service/member/year.

#### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Name and file with Dean of Students Office a GNRC representative who will also serve as chapter public relations officer.

Send at least 5 members, including the PR officer, to GNRC neighborhood meeting.

Publish a neighborhood newsletter which will be distributed to neighbors at least once a semester.

It should contain:

- a. Officers names, phone numbers
- b. Procedure for registering complaints
- c. Date of GNRC meeting or at least a notice that one is forthcoming
- d. Procedure by which neighbors can enlist your aid to help meet their needs\*
- e. A brief synopsis of your achievements for the semester\*
- f. Notification of upcoming parties\*

\* optional

Sponsor at least one activity per semester for and with neighbors.

## ATHLETICS

Participate in at least two intramural sports or activities each season.  
Eliminate conflict on the playing field, i.e. no fights.

## CHAPTER MANAGEMENT

House manager and steward has attended workshops.  
Maintain a positive cash position.  
Complete at least one major renovation or improvement each year  
Maintain officer notebooks.  
Hold a goal setting/planning retreat annually.

Submit an organization plan showing percentage of membership involved in chapter committees or functioning.

## ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

Publish at least two newsletters per year to be sent to alumni.  
Maintain an active alumni data base.  
Hold at least one meeting per semester for officers and alumni board members.  
Host an annual alumni/undergraduate event.

## Acknowledgement of Excellence

Chapters achieving excellence in all areas will receive the President's Award (plaque) and receive a house gift not to exceed \$300.00 in value, recognition in the Rensselaer Review and in the POLYTECHNIC. Excellence in one or more these of areas will also merit mentions in the Parents' Guide to Greek Life to be distributed during Student Orientation.

Chapters achieving excellence in one or more of these areas will receive a certificate. Their national

and/or alumni organization will be notified, and the achievement will be noted a POLYTECHNIC article. It is the responsibility of the Chapter to apply for the award. Applications should be submitted to the Dean of Students Office by April 1.

## AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

## APPLICATION

NAME OF FRATERNITY:

NAME OF CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

The goals and accomplishments in each area. List only data and events since last April 1.

1. SCHOLARSHIP
2. MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT
3. NEW MEMBER EDUCATION
4. COMMUNITY RELATIONS
5. CHAPTER MANAGEMENT
6. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
7. ALUMNI RELATIONS
8. IFC/PANHELLENIC PARTICIPATION
9. UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
10. SERVICE/PHILANTHROPY
11. ATHLETICS

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Chapter President

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Chapter Advisor

APPENDIX 4

## APPENDIX 5

### HOUSING PLAN

#### Background

In past years, Rensselaer has made various efforts to provide housing support to the Greek System in terms of financial, life-safety and social assistance. Previous reports illustrated the various scenarios of physical plant improvements; however, no ongoing, Rensselaer endorsed formal plan has been established that would serve as a "model" which Greek organizations could then pursue to meet their long term needs.

#### Current Position of Institute - 1989/90

Institutionally, the Greek System is viewed as a very positive part of student life, which has a long lasting impact upon alumni who reflect upon their positive experience at Rensselaer. From a campus life perspective, the Greeks are involved in various civic-minded, volunteer-oriented activities that reflect favorably upon Rensselaer. In addition, the Greeks have provided campus housing for students that did not generally require Institute capital investment for construction.

The community has developed an "Institutional Zone" in the City which allows for development of new structures. In addition, Rensselaer encourages the maintenance of and improvements to existing properties.

Efforts to positively influence the community, such as the Community Greek Forum of 1988 sponsored by the Dean of Students Office, lessened negative community response and perception but has not changed a "no growth" Greek atmosphere in the City of Troy. Therefore, the need to meet the needs of The Greek System lead to Institute involvement.

The impact of a lower undergraduate population will have an affect upon the ability to fully occupy the campus residence facilities. Average yearly occupancy of the 2,800 bed inventory is typically 96 percent. In 1989 - 90, the occupancy will be 92 percent, resulting in less revenue from empty beds. Of course, marketing efforts and improvements in the physical plants of the dormitories will lessen the impact; however, it is prudent and timely to consider Rensselaer's position with the Greek System.

#### Proposal

The 'housing plan' is proposed to meet immediate and long range physical plant needs depending upon the Greeks' individual positions. The plan may be implemented in phases which include Institute funding, support, or coordination for:

- Renovation of current structures
- Moving into a better quality house
- Moving into an on-campus housing building
- New construction
- Long-term leasing of Rensselaer land

There are currently seven fully recognized chapters that are without chapter facilities, and clearly both Rensselaer and the Greeks could benefit if housing assistance is provided. In addition, there are several fully recognized chapters whose needs are not met by a Stacwyck renovation, but who are qualified for new construction. The Institute and individuals chapters will negotiate contracts on a case by case basis.

The repayment of funds used in any portions of this plan will be the responsibility of the individual houses over period of years.

#### STACWYCK RENOVATION

Stacwyck (Sunset Terrace Apartment Complex) was constructed in 1978. The facility, which consists of five buildings housing 48 students each, can accommodate 240 students. In the summer of 1989, a partial conversion completed of one building for a Greek chapter. The conversion, designated to the specifications of the sorority, accomplished on time and below budget. Rensselaer provided the construction dollars.

It is recommended that the program continue to include as many of the five buildings as desired by the Greek system.

Rensselaer will:

Negotiate to provide the dollars for construction estimated at \$250,000 per building (1989 dollars). Rensselaer will retain ownership of the property.

Greek chapter will:

Negotiate to pay for the base rental of the apartment unit (keeping the Auxiliary-housing program whole) and the additional amortization of

interest and principal. Contractual arrangements may allow the chapter to build equity on their investment.

## NEW CONSTRUCTION

Rensselaer will assist current houses in the Greek system who have the ability to arrange for financing of the \$1+ million house. For those chapters who qualify, Rensselaer will arrange a plan considering the following options. Rensselaer may:

- Co-sign as a guarantor of payment.
- Provide Rensselaer owned land in the Institutional Zone
- Assist in arranging financing
- Assist in dealing with City requirements
- Assist in planning and construction with possible savings in multiple construction

Hold a portion of a mortgage with a chapter (i.e., 60/40 plan). Historically, Rensselaer's Greeks have been a good investment. To date, no chapter has defaulted on a loan from Rensselaer.

## RENSSELAER GREEK PLAN

Long range capital planning must be an integral part of this relationship. Better equity building programs will go a long way to improving perceptions of the people in the Greek neighborhoods, since the condition of a Greek house reflects not only on itself, but on all houses in the system and on Rensselaer as well.

To protect current equity, all chapters with housing will:

- Contract for watchman service during the winter break. Daily checks of the chapter house are essential when the facility is unoccupied to verify that the heat is on. Repairing the heating system before the pipes freeze helps prevent costly water damage,

- Keep the outside of the chapter house in good repair and up to the standards of the house's neighborhood.

- Meet standards established for safety, health, and sanitation as outlined through annual inspections.

"Emergency loans" of up to \$10,000 may be obtained from Rensselaer to make repairs considered crucial to containing health and safety standards.

To help chapters with renovations of their Chapter House's structure or for Chapter improvements, Rensselaer will establish the "Rensselaer Greek Plan". A fund will be established to which contributions and donations may be made, and from which chapters may borrow for their housing needs. The fund will be administered by the advisory committee.

Fund sources that chapters may consider include:

- Chapter assessments
- Chapter/Independent housing cost differentials (raising house fees)
- Pledges from graduates
- Contributions through House Corporations and Alumni Associations.
- Donations obtained by services of the chapter.

Interest earned through the fund will be added to the fund and be used by Rensselaer to establish scholarship awards and incentives.

## SUMMARY

The plan is anticipated to include:

- Stacwyck apartment conversion- four buildings estimated at \$250,000 per building.

- New construction- estimated at \$1 - \$1.75 million; approximately five houses will be involved in this.

- Renovation of current houses at \$40 - \$60 per square foot.

The benefits of this program are as follows:

- Rensselaer formally establishes a plan supporting Greek growth and continued stability.

- Rensselaer assumes some control over the conditions surrounding the physical appearance of the residences.

- Some Greeks will become long term tenants in housing units that may become idle given the upcoming decade's enrollment forecasts.

- The Community's perception of the Greek system will improve.

- The Greeks' perception of Rensselaer support will be positive, incrementally affecting future giving to Rensselaer.

- Portions of the plan will be optional.

## APPENDIX 6

Excerpts from the 1989-90 Rensselaer  
HandBook

PG. 17

Office of the Dean of Students

Fraternalities and Sororities

The primary focus of university interaction with its Greek-letter social organizations is the Dean's Office. This interaction is supported mainly by assistance to the Panhellenic and the Interfraternity Council, guidance made available to individual chapters and their officers, and sponsorship of the Column Club Rensselaer, an organization primarily designed to honor outstanding alumni members of the individual fraternity and sorority chapters.

PG. 40

Physical Education and Athletics

Intramural Sports

Intramurals are divided into three segments: independent leagues (IC), interfraternity leagues (IFC), and open tournaments and leagues. All first-semester freshmen are considered independents and cannot participate in the fraternity leagues, while the IFC league teams earn points toward the Barker Trophy, given annually to the overall fraternity sports champion.

PG. 52

The Rensselaer Judicial System

Jurisdiction Within the Rensselaer Judicial System

The Rensselaer Judicial System is comprised of the Office of the Dean of Students, the Judicial Board and the Joint Board, the Greek Judicial Board, the Academic Judicial Committees, The Review Board and the President as diagrammed in the accompanying chart. The object is to

settle issues as informally as possible but to insure fairness to all parties. In a general way, disciplinary cases are heard first in the Office of the Dean of Students and civil cases are heard first by the Judicial Board. The Fraternity and Sorority systems forces it rules through the Greek Judicial Board. Cases of academic dishonesty are heard by Academic Judicial Committee. The verdicts issued and penalties assigned may be appealed to a Review Board and ultimately to the President as outlined below. The decisions of each board are recommended to the Office of the Dean of Students for implementation. Following this section which describes briefly the jurisdiction each part of the Judicial system, are charts describing the path a particular type of case may follow through the judicial system.

PG. 53

#### Components of the Judicial System

##### Office of the Dean of Students

The Office of the Dean of Students shall have initial jurisdiction in alleged violations of the Grounds for Disciplinary Action and of the Interfraternity Council Constitution in all cases except inter-fraternity controversy. All alleged violations of the Rules for Maintenance of Public Order are also adjudicated in the Dean's office. The Dean's office may issue verdicts and assign penalties either of which may be appealed to the Judicial Board. All decisions of Boards are recommended to the Office of the Dean of Students for implementation or, in civil cases, to communicate the outcome to the parties involved.

PG. 54

##### Greek Judicial Board

The Greek Judicial Board has jurisdiction over alleged violations of the Grounds for Disciplinary Action, and of the Interfraternity Council or Panhellenic Council Constitution of Bylaws by a recognized fraternity or sorority. The Judicial Board may issue verdicts and assign penalties which may be appealed to the Review Board. The complainant may consult with the Dean of Students Office and choose between Greek Judicial Board jurisdiction or a joint Greek/Union Judicial Board jurisdiction. In the latter case, the Student Judicial Board has jurisdiction over the verdict. The verdict and the judgement of the severity of the violation shall be communicated to the Greek Judicial Board which shall have

jurisdiction over the penalty. The decision from either Judicial Board may be appealed to the Review Board.

PG. 58

Fraternity sorority-related cases

IFC - PHC Groups charged with violation of IFC - PHC regulations or grounds for disciplinary action

If an IFC or PHC officer or member group accuses a member group of an alleged violation of the IFC

PHC regulations, the case will be heard by the Greek Judicial Board. If either party wishes to appeal, the review process must be initiated; otherwise the Greek Judicial Board decision stands. If an individual or group accuses a group within the IFC or PHC of an alleged violation of the Grounds for Disciplinary Action, the complainant must present the case to the Office of the Dean of Students. If the Dean of Students decides to represent the complainant, the case will be heard by the Greek Judicial Board. If either the Dean or the accused Greek member wishes to appeal, the review process must be initiated; otherwise the IFC Judicial Board decision stands.

PG. 62

Non IFC-PHC Complainant vs. IFC-PHC Group

If an individual or group, that is not a member of the IFC-PHC accuses a member IFC/PHC group of an alleged violation of the IFC-PHC regulations or Grounds for Disciplinary Action, the person bringing the charge must first report it to the Dean of Students office who will then decide if the case should move forward as a Dean's Inquiry or to a board. If the case is referred to a board, the person bringing the original charges has the option of having the case heard by either the Greek Judicial Board or jointly by the Union Greek Judicial Boards. If the case is heard jointly by the Union-Greek Judicial Boards, the Union board will determine the verdict and the Greek Judicial Board will determine the penalty. If a Dean's Inquiry takes place and the Dean decides disciplinary action is necessary, the accused IFC-PHC member group will have the option of having the Dean render a judgement in the case or having the case referred to the appropriate board. If the Dean or the accused IFC-PHC member group chooses to appeal the Greek Judicial Board

verdict and penalty or the Union verdict, the review process must be initiated otherwise the verdict and penalty stand.

PG. 67

## Miscellaneous Regulations

### Hazing

No individual or group may haze another at any time including at time of initiation into any organization or at the time of affiliation with an organization. By action of New York State, all organizational Constitutions or By Laws are automatically amended to prohibit hazing activities.

Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities and situations include paddling in any form; forced consumption of liquor or other drugs; creation of excessive fatigue; required calisthenics; "kidnapping"; physical and psychological shocks; wearing, publicly, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; activities which are not normally performed by the Active Membership; and any other activities which are not consistent with organizational law, ritual, or policy; or the regulations and policies of the Institute. New member orientation and development programs must be constructive and strive to make individuals a part of the larger group by mutually understanding objectives and participating in programs.

PG. 115-118

## Fraternities and Sororities at Rensselaer

At Rensselaer, a fraternity or sorority may most accurately be characterized as an experience which may make a valuable contribution to a student's educational experience. With twenty-nine fraternities and five

sororities currently in existence, each and every one has something different to offer; yet all possess a common bond. This unbreakable bond envelopes such aspects of fraternal living as an alternate way of life, freedom, responsibilities, the opportunity to share. the opportunity to borrow, academic help from brothers/sisters, the chance to develop, a good interfraternal sporting rivalry, the answer to a quiet weekend, all-night study sessions ... and countless other tangibles and intangibles which only those who have realized them can truly appreciate.

In the fall of 1989, over one-third of the Class of 1993 will probably join one of the thirty-two groups, which, for a majority of them, will be one of the most important decisions they have ever made. Basically, the remaining three and a half years of one's college life is built around the associations with one's fraternity or sorority. The friends one makes, the extracurriculars in which one participates, the courses which one takes, and the social life which one follows are just a few of the many aspects of life upon which one's fraternity or sorority has a direct influence. The bond underlying fraternal life does not stop at graduation; a member can always look to another member for help, whether he or she is twenty or sixty years old.

While fraternities and sororities might not be the best possible way of life at Rensselaer for everyone, the 1600 or so students comprising the Greek system here will be quick to contend that unlike the institutional dormitory, their fraternity or sorority house is a home. Fraternity & Sorority

houses provide very cost-efficient living. While the Cooperative living and strong management keep the costs to a minimum the Fraternity house bill helps provide social activities, scholarship and loan services, up-to-date test files and study rooms, as well as a greater freedom and opportunity to use the common facilities. The fraternity or sorority house offers a training ground for valuable lessons in human relations, self-development, and various other qualities which prospective employers seek in graduating college students.

#### Activities

As part of their community relations program, both the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils and the individual fraternities and sororities organize and promote various fund-raising activities for charity. With such a large and cooperative working force available, the Greek system is able to raise tens of thousands of dollars annually for many worthwhile causes, as well as providing various services or assistance when the need arises. Some of the more notable projects are described below to

provide a glimpse of a few of the "non-social" activities of fraternities and sororities.

One of the IFC's major projects is the annual Jail for Bail for the American Cancer Society, which is normally held during Grand Marshal Week in April. On this day, students, faculty and staff pay a small fee to have someone arrested. The 'convict' must then solicit bail money to be freed from jail. Last year, the IFC raised in excess of \$8000.

Also during the course of the school year, individual fraternities and sororities sponsor a seemingly endless array of "-athon" events which include anything from the Volleyball Marathon for Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to the Dance-a-thon for Unity House. Finally, the individual chapters sponsor their own projects such as neighborhood Halloween parties, neighborhood cocktail parties, rose sales, organizing blood drives, and countless other community and school related activities. Overall, the Greek system is unilaterally willing to help others when need arises.

## Rush

The purpose of Rush is to help all those interested in the Greek system to visit a number of chapters or their memberships in a short period of time. There are different chapters and personalities within chapters, just as there are among the prospective rushees. The Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils' intent is that the Rush schedule will allow enough time for rushees to get to know Greeks and vice versa in a variety of settings.

Rush schedules are organized by the IFC and Panhel and are supported by each chapter; all rushees are asked to cooperate.

Printed information is distributed in the fall about rush activities.

Activities during rush include Greek Nights with all fraternities and sororities participating, scheduled open houses, discussions with fraternity rush chairpersons plus individual activities in each fraternity such as receptions, parties, sports events and study sessions.

Sorority rush is confined to a short period of structured parties which provide the best opportunity for rushees to meet sisters and visa versa. All women participating in sorority rush are assigned a Rush Counselor to help her through the rush process. This year, freshmen women will rush in January.

Rush activities are for anyone interested in joining a fraternity or sorority and are not restricted to members of the freshman class nor is anyone whom participates obligated to join. An important aspect of joining a group is to know the people and how they live. Although social events are a part of fraternities and sororities, the most important aspect is the personal contact between good friends.

### Fraternity and Sorority Principles and Practices

All social Greek-letter organizations, fraternities and sororities, must be recognized by the Office of the Dean of Students and by the Interfraternity Council or Panhellenic Council as either a colony or member of the IFC or Panhel. The Office of the Dean of Students, in cooperation with the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic, establishes the university regulations under which fraternities and sororities operate. The Dean's Office works closely with the IFC and Panhel to ensure that these rules and commonly accepted standards of behavior are maintained.

Formally, sororities are also included within the definition of fraternity; therefore, the term "fraternity" as used in this section and elsewhere in The Rensselaer Handbook, refers equally to all Greek-letter social organizations with either male or female membership.

The university endorses the policy known as "Principles of Action" adopted by the National Interfraternity Conference. It is the responsibility of the Interfraternity Council, under the direction of the Office of the Dean of Students, to insure that the member fraternities conscientiously live up to the Principles, which are:

- Inculcate use of democratic principles

- Encourage intellectual achievement

- Promote management responsibility

- Foster constructive training

- Seek commendable conduct

- Recognize loyalty to the institution

Each fraternity maintains at all times in the Dean of Students Office an up-to-date membership roster, including all persons residing in the house, the student officers, the names and addresses of all advisors and, if a national fraternity, the chief officer of that fraternity. Neither a fraternity nor its officers are to violate Rensselaer's Grounds for Disciplinary Action or encourage others to do so.

No student group, including fraternities and sororities, may allow any member or pledge to haze. Social groups do have developmental programs for members and those interested in joining. These programs are to be helpful, respect the rights of others for studying, privacy, class attendance and dignity. A formal statement regarding Hazing is found under Institute Policy Notices. All pledge activities will be confined to the campus or the fraternity house. No fraternity activity will be sanctioned which would involve or unreasonably disturb those not in the fraternity.

The serving of alcoholic beverages at fraternity activities or on fraternity property must at all times be in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. Persons under 21 years of age or intoxicated persons are not to be served at any time.

Each fraternity and sorority must maintain membership in the Interfraternity or Panhellenic Council and abide by its rules, in addition to those of the Institute. Although ultimate recognition of both new and continuing fraternities rest with the Institute through the Office of the Dean of Students, the IFC or Panhellenic will be consulted on all instances of recognition.

Rules for rushing shall be clearly stated and adhered to by all fraternities. These rules are to be such that rushing will not interfere with the academic program of the university. All rushing rules and their amendments must have the approval of the Office of the Dean of Students.

The presence of fraternity houses in residential areas presents both an opportunity and a problem for the fraternities so situated. Every member of these fraternities must be conscious of the rights and special concerns of neighbors.

Every effort should be made to eliminate unreasonable noise: particular attention should be directed to the problem on nights of fraternity parties, since fraternities should exercise responsible control over their guests' behavior.

Fraternities shall, if it is physically possible, provide off-street parking for members' cars. When such facilities are not available, members must adhere to city regulations with special regard to the needs, rights and conveniences of their neighbors.

All fraternities are responsible at all times, including the vacation periods, for proper maintenance and cleanliness of their house and grounds.

With the exception of violations of IFC or Panhellenic members reported by other IFC or Panhellenic Rules will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for appropriate action or referral in accordance with the Judicial Procedures found elsewhere in the handbook.

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Glossary

Hell Week - A week of initiation of pledges into fraternities

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Student Government

Interfraternity Council

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) bears a strong responsibility in Student Government. It chooses representatives to sit on such bodies as the Student Senate and the Rules and Elections Committee, expressing the interests of the fraternity system and reporting to the IFC. Fraternity members compose approximately 35% of the student body; as the governing body of this large block of students, the IFC can play a major role in the election and direction of student government.