

# **MichiganTech**

## Relationship Statement for Fraternity & Sorority Life

The Relationship Statement for Fraternity & Sorority Life (created in Spring 2007) serves as a means to more clearly define the synergetic relationship between Michigan Technological University (Michigan Tech) and its fraternities and sororities. Michigan Tech's fraternity/sorority program currently houses 21 fraternities and sororities: 4 National Panhellenic Conference sororities/women's fraternities, 9 North-American Interfraternity Conference fraternities, 4 women's local sororities, 3 men's local fraternities, and 1 men's professional fraternity. To ensure quality and continued growth of the fraternity/sorority system, Michigan Tech and its fraternities and sororities have defined the mutually beneficial relationship outlined in the following statement.

### **The Fraternity/Sorority Experience**

Michigan Tech has a rich history of fraternal life, the first fraternity chapter being established on campus in 1892, and the first sorority chapter established in 1941. Throughout their existence, fraternities and sororities have served as a means of continuous development through opportunities for leadership development, meaningful social interaction, academic support, and service, centering around a values-based ritual. As outlined in the institutional mission, Michigan Tech prepares students to "create the future". The fraternity and sorority experience supports this mission by assisting students in developing meaningful life skills such as leadership & other skill development, managing individuals and groups through relationships, understanding organizational culture, and navigating organizational structure and behavior that will allow them to succeed in their endeavors post-graduation. Michigan Tech affirms that fraternities and sororities contribute significantly and positively to the college experience. Thus, in the spirit of cooperation to strengthen the Greek community at Michigan Tech, the values of leadership, scholarship, service, and life-long friendship are affirmed through this relationship.

### **General Expectations**

1. Each chapter is expected to follow the teachings and values communicated through their ritual and incorporate those values into their daily operations.
2. Each chapter is expected to represent themselves and their community in a way that is reflective of positive fraternal values.
3. Each Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Council chapter is expected to have a minimum of 10 full-time students at or above the campus fraternity/sorority academic requirement as outlined by Student Organization policy.
4. Each chapter is expected to hold membership in either the Panhellenic Council and/or Interfraternity Council. This shall be re-evaluated should expansion of the fraternity/sorority community and/or restructuring warrant creation of additional governing councils.
5. Each chapter is expected to have one active full-time faculty/staff advisor. Chapters are encouraged to use this advisor in the development of goals and programs.
6. Each chapter is expected to adhere to Michigan Tech Code of Community Conduct, the Michigan Tech Drug and Alcohol Policy, the Academic Integrity Policy, and the policies of their respective governing council.

### **Advisory and Resource Support**

1. Michigan Tech will provide a full-time campus fraternity/sorority advisor housed in Student Activities.
2. Additional support will be provided to the campus fraternity/sorority community through additional Student Affairs and Student Life staff and other interested parties.

3. Michigan Tech will provide advisory support for governing councils (the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council), and any other fraternity/sorority related groups including but not limited to the Order of Omega Fraternity/Sorority Honorary.
4. Michigan Tech will provide advisement and support for chapter leaders at all times throughout the academic year.
5. Michigan Tech will provide a comprehensive fraternity/sorority life website with resource development information for chapters.
6. Michigan Tech will provide organization roster reporting and management for its chapters.
7. Michigan Tech will provide educational programming focused on fraternity and sorority life.
8. Michigan Tech will continue to recognize the contributions of fraternity/sorority members on campus and in the community through continued recognition during the academic year and an evening of recognition in the form of a Fraternity/Sorority Awards Program.
9. Michigan Tech will provide a university account specifically for the purposes of financing aspects of the Fraternity/Sorority Life program.
10. Michigan Tech supports and encourages open expansion of new fraternities and sororities provided their missions and values are congruent with the Institution and its Fraternity/Sorority Life program.
11. Michigan Tech will work to create a culture of continuous assessment within fraternity/sorority life through projects and initiatives designed to assess the students' fraternal experiences and the effectiveness of our fraternity/sorority life program.

### **Academics and Scholarship**

1. In conjunction with the North-American Interfraternity Conference standard, individuals must meet the following requirements to join a fraternity or sorority:
  - a. First-semester students must have a graduating High School Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher to be eligible to receive a bid/invitation for membership in their first semester.
    - i. Chapters wishing to set a higher standard are permitted/encouraged to do so by communicating that standard with the Student Activities Office.
  - b. Beginning in their second semester of enrollment, a student must have a cumulative college GPA of 2.25 or higher and must be in good academic standing with the University.
  - c. Transfer students with a minimum of 12 earned college credit hours are deemed eligible in their first semester of enrollment at Michigan Tech.
2. Individuals currently holding membership in a fraternity or sorority shall meet the same requirement by Spring 2009 in order to remain in **good academic standing** with the Office of Student Activities.
3. Chapters are encouraged to develop scholarship plans for those below a 2.25 Cumulative GPA to assist them in reaching the requirement.
4. Individual fraternities and sororities must attain a 2.50 Cumulative Chapter GPA to remain in **good standing**, including all active members and new/associate members effective Fall 2008.
  - a. Chapters who fall below this requirement shall be placed on Academic Warning and are required to submit a detailed scholarship plan as outlined by the campus fraternity/sorority advisor.
  - b. Chapters who fall below this requirement for two consecutive semesters will be subject to educational sanctioning including but not limited to programming and/or limitation of social involvement.
5. Michigan Tech will provide academic performance information and rankings to all members of the Michigan Tech community and other interested parties for the fall and spring semesters.

### **Chapter Communication and Participation**

1. Chapter leadership is expected to file the following paperwork with the Office of Student Activities/campus Greek advisor by the Friday of the second week of classes each semester or each year (as dictated):
  - a. Chapter Risk Management Plan (each year)

- i. Chapters with a Risk Management Policy from their [inter]national organization (FIGP or other national umbrella Risk Management policy) must submit a copy of that policy to the Office of Student Activities. Local sororities and fraternities are asked to file their Chapter Risk Management Policy as well. Resources as to how to structure this plan can be found on the Greek Life website (<http://greek.mtu.edu>).
  - b. Chapter Governing Documents including if available, Constitution and By-Laws (each year)
    - i. Chapters unable to submit a Constitution to the Office of Student Activities must submit acceptable documentation outlining chapter structure and operations.
2. Chapters are expected to continuously attend their respective governing council meetings (Interfraternity Council and/or Panhellenic Council) as dictated by the council's constitution and bylaws and to communicate pertinent information with their chapter members.
3. Chapter Presidents are expected to attend Chapter President Roundtable Meetings as scheduled by the campus Greek advisor. Should presidents be unable to attend, they are expected to send a chapter executive council member in their place.
4. Chapter Presidents are expected to meet once a semester with the campus Greek advisor to discuss upcoming events and to engage in goal setting and strategic planning for the chapter.
  - a. Chapters are encouraged to take advantage of the Greek advisor as a resource and schedule additional meetings each semester to further discuss planning and goal setting.
5. Chapters are encouraged to send their advisor(s) to all Chapter Advisor Roundtables as scheduled by the campus Greek advisor.

### **Service and Philanthropy**

1. Chapters will sponsor at least one philanthropic event and/or community service project each academic year.
  - a. Chapters are strongly encouraged to continue to reaffirm their commitment to service by sponsoring additional service-related projects throughout the academic year.
2. Michigan Tech will provide chapters with a means to self-report chapter service and philanthropy efforts and will share those with the greater community.
  - a. Michigan Tech will collect information from chapters about Winter Carnival snow statue building efforts and reports those to interested parties.

### **Membership Recruitment**

1. Michigan Tech recognizes that it is the right of the undergraduates in each chapter to select their own members within the context of allowing no discrimination or disqualification because of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, handicap, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or age.
  - a. Michigan Tech recognizes the value of continuous recruitment, and encourages chapters to actively recruit throughout the academic year within the guidelines provided by their specific governing council(s).
  - b. To not detract from the known educational benefits provided during the designated Orientation Week, chapters will refrain from hosting events for the purposes of recruitment during this week. Efforts to engage orientation students in fraternity and sorority life will be channeled through the Greek governing councils.
2. Michigan Tech supports the use of the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils as means to recruit, and will provide assistance to the councils in recruiting new members.
3. Chapters are expected to only allow students to join ("pledge" or "pin") who meet the minimum requirements of both their organization and of Michigan Tech (refer to "Academics and Scholarship" for academic standard) .
4. All fraternity/sorority recruitment activities shall be "dry" (there shall be no alcoholic beverages permitted during any recruitment activities).
5. All recruitment events and themes shall be in good taste and shall be reflective of organizational and fraternal values.

6. Chapters shall not host recruitment events in cooperation with unrecognized fraternities and sororities.

### **Continuous Education and Development**

1. Chapters are encouraged to sponsor one educational/member development program per year on a topic important to chapter success.
  - a. Michigan Tech will make available a list of potential program topics and available presenters for each of those topic areas.
2. Michigan Tech will provide funds and resources for educational programs targeting both new and experienced leaders within the fraternity/sorority community.
3. Should funds be available, Michigan Tech will sponsor full or partial scholarships for students to attend summer educational development programs focused on fraternity/sorority life.
4. Chapters are expected to support educational programming offered specifically for fraternity/sorority members.

The Relationship Statement for Greek Life will be reviewed on a biennial basis by the campus Greek advisor and the leadership of the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils.