

# Knox College Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) Relationship Statement

## Statement of Relationship Between Knox College and Fraternity and Sorority Life

For over a century, fraternity and sorority life (FSL) has been an integral part of our thriving Knox College community. Knox College recognizes that FSL is a valued part of our campus and cultivates a positive campus community when shared values and expectations are upheld. Membership in FSL may carry many benefits, including leadership opportunities, academic support, emphasis on service and philanthropy, alumni connections, increased opportunities to build relationships and connections across campus, and chapter and FSL community-wide siblinghood.

Because Knox College understands the value Fraternities and Sororities can have on a residential campus, we hold recognized FSL organizations and their members to a higher level of responsibility and commitment to the mission and values of the College, in addition to those of their national organizations. The FSL community, in return, expects a commitment from the College for support, advocacy, and resources in alignment with those values. To cultivate a positive, inclusive, and thriving campus community, there are broad expectations that individual chapters, Governing Councils, student FSL members, and the College uphold that directly support and enhance the mission and values of the chapters, FSL community, and Knox College. FSL members and FSL alumni are expected to understand that fraternity and sorority membership comes with increased responsibility and expectations, and by voluntarily associating with a fraternity or sorority, agree to uphold and act in accordance with the mission, values, and expectations of the College, FSL, their chapter, their (inter)national organization, and their Governing Council.

### Expectations of Individual Fraternity/Sorority Chapters

- Promote academic excellence and intellectual activities for members, and cultivate an environment conducive for learning and academic progress.
- Promote [shared FSL community values](#) as a standard to maintain, in addition to College values.
- Engage in campus activities and contribute to campus life and the campus community by sponsoring or co-sponsoring safe community service, philanthropic, and social programs.
- Encourage and support involvement of members in FSL leadership positions and leadership positions in other campus organizations.
- Respect all members of the campus community, including individuals not affiliated with a fraternity or sorority.
- Appreciate, respect, learn about, and actively promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the chapter, FSL community, and campus community, helping to create a welcoming environment for all individuals in the community regardless of their identity, culture, or experiences.
- Prioritize the wellbeing of members by considering financial, intellectual, environmental, mind-body, social, and spiritual wellness in programs and operations, and through appropriate care and upkeep of any chapter facilities.
- Abide by College policies as outlined in the Student Handbook and policies or expectations provided by the Campus Life Office, Division of Student Development, or the College for fraternities and sororities, in addition to all policies of their Governing Councils, (inter)national organizations, and all local, state, and federal laws; this includes cooperating with the conduct processes of the College, their respective Governing Councils, their (inter)national organizations, and local, state, and federal law enforcement.
- Adhere to the additional basic expectations provided in the [Fraternity and Sorority Life Chapter Agreement](#).

### Expectations of Governing Councils (Interfraternity Council [IFC] and Panhellenic Council/College Panhellenic Association [CPA])

- Exercise self-governance and support the FSL community in upholding the mission, values, and expectations of the College and Governing Councils through their constitution, by-laws, and other processes, doing so in collaboration with the Campus Life Office and alignment with their respective national organizations (National Interfraternity Conference, National Panhellenic Conference), except in times where College policies may supersede Governing Council processes.
- Continually refine and promote the community values of FSL, created together by FSL leadership and the Campus Life Office; values include scholarship, respect & morality, leadership, community service & engagement, and diversity, equity, & inclusion.
- Create fraternity/sorority guidelines centered on FSL community standards and values in areas such as

recruitment, expansions, academic standards, and conduct.

- Promote member chapter recruitment activities during the academic year and organize primary/formal recruitment in the Winter term of each year.
- Encourage active fraternity and sorority involvement in campus programs and activities.
- Promote fraternity and sorority collaboration on campus, including collaboration between fraternities and sororities and with other campus organizations to coordinate joint programs, events, and initiatives.
- Hold member chapters accountable to these guidelines utilizing judicial procedures that are separate from the College conduct and adjudicative process.
- Serve as a liaison between member fraternities/sororities, campus organizations, and campus administration.

### **Expectations of Students in Leadership Positions in the Fraternity/Sorority Community**

- Prioritize their academic education and ensure academic success for themselves and their peers through utilizing chapter, (inter)national organization, and College resources.
- Govern wisely when elected to a position of leadership, and work with each other, alumni, (inter)national organization staff, and the Campus Life Office and College in chapter administration.
- Actively serve their chapter based on chapter mission and values, and set expectations that chapter members do the same.
- Be a positive role model for their community and hold peers accountable when their actions do not align with the values of the chapter, FSL, or campus community.
- Adhere to the [FSL Chapter Agreement](#) and utilize FSL resources to support their chapter and the FSL community.
- Communicate regularly with the Campus Life Office and campus community to address the opportunities and challenges that face their members and the FSL community.
- Serve as the primary liaison between their chapter, campus organizations, and campus administrators.
- Adhere to any College, chapter, (inter)national organization, or Governing Council requirements that are associated with membership or holding a leadership position in a fraternity or sorority.

### **Expectations of Knox College**

- Provide advocacy, support, oversight, resources, and accountability to fraternities and sororities and the FSL community through the Campus Life Office. The Campus Life Office will provide a staff advisor to IFC, CPA, and Order of Omega and will serve as a liaison between Knox College FSL and other parties as needed.
- Determine the organization recognition status of a fraternity or sorority based on College policies and the expectations of fraternities and sororities.
- Recognize fraternities and sororities identified by the Campus Life Office and Knox College as registered student organizations, and grant them all rights associated with this status, including but not limited to use of facilities, equipment and meeting space, and the ability to sponsor programs and events.
- Provide fraternities and sororities assistance in communicating with alumni members.
- Work with fraternities and sororities to compile grade statistics, and assist organizations with providing academic assistance and programming to members and the FSL community.
- Support faculty, staff, and alumni advisors of fraternity and sorority organizations.