The Greek Life Commons Agreement is designed to extend to Greek Life the opportunity to be part of the innovative CLASS Initiative at Rensselaer. CLASS is a new student life model based on the concept of “Clustered Learning, Advocacy and Support for Students” (CLASS). Its purpose is to enhance the quality of student life for Rensselaer students, class by class, and it extends across the spectrum of student residential life at Rensselaer. It is a comprehensive effort built around time-based clustering and residential clusters, and builds upon, and augments, the Rensselaer First-Year Experience, with associated programming across all under-graduate years. CLASS incorporates clusters of residential halls or commons, with a combination of: live-in commons deans, upper class and graduate student resident directors and assistants. It also incorporates the Dean of the First-Year Experience, and class-year deans (e.g., Class of 2015, Class of 2016, etc.) so that all aspects of CLASS are coordinated to ensure an enhanced quality of life and academic experience for resident students after their first year.

There is the opportunity for one of the Commons or Clusters to be comprised of those students who live within the Greek system at Rensselaer.

As part of CLASS, in order to ensure that sophomores are actively engaged in the Sophomore-Year Experience, sophomore students must reside in Rensselaer Residence halls, unless they are permitted to live in the houses of fraternities and sororities that are recognized members of the Greek Life Commons. Fraternities and sororities that sign this Agreement can become recognized members of the Greek Life Commons.

As a signatory, your chapter will receive the full benefit of:

A) The Sophomore-Year Experience
B) CLASS-specific program activities
C) Outreach initiatives generated by the Associate Dean for the Greek Life Commons.

No fraternity or sorority at Rensselaer is obligated to sign the Greek Life Commons Agreement in order to maintain your Rensselaer recognition as a fraternity or sorority in good standing. However, those sophomores who join and are initiated into Greek houses will only be permitted to reside in those houses that have signed the Greek Life Commons Agreement.
The Greek Life Commons Agreement is linked to the following existing Rensselaer and public policy documents that have application regarding university rules and regulations governing the recognition of fraternities and sororities. These related documents continue to have application regardless of whether or not a decision is made to sign or not sign the Agreement. However, for those fraternities and sororities that do execute this Agreement, its applicable provisions supersede, and take precedence over, any less stringent standards that might otherwise be expressed in:

- The Statement of Relationship Between Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Social Fraternities & Sororities at Rensselaer, specifically the section titled “Safety, Sanitation, and Fire Protection.” (provided online in Greek Resources)
- Rensselaer Greek Standardized Billing Process and Billing Agreement (Attachment A)
- Rensselaer health, safety, and fire protection (provided online in Greek Resources)
- Annual 5-Star Standards of Accreditation (provided online in Greek Resources)
- Greek Life Commons Vision Statement (Attachment B)
- Institute Residential Commons Standards (provided online in Greek Resources)
- The Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities (provided online through the Dean of Students Office)
- City of Troy and New York State code requirements

Therefore, for those who elect to participate, as members of the Greek Life Commons you agree:

A) To actively participate in CLASS program initiatives, including the Sophomore-Year Experience;

B) To pro-actively respond to Assistant Dean Outreach counseling and personal development initiatives;

C) To actively participate in Class Dean programs providing support for academic success, retention, and strong class affinity;

D) To actively participate in Greek Life Commons programs designed to strengthen Greek Life as a community;

E) To ensure that the standards of quality of the living environment in the fraternity or sorority, with regard to upkeep and maintenance, meets the Institute Residential Commons Standards (which may exceed the baseline City of Troy codes and standards). The upkeep and maintenance of the house must include spring clean up to the interior and exterior of the house prior to departure at the end of each spring semester, and summer maintenance must be consistent with university expectations. By the beginning of each academic year, the fraternity or sorority house must meet the Institute Residential Commons Standards. There will be inspections at the beginning of each fall and spring semester to ensure that each signatory will meet the Institute Residential Commons Standards.

F) To participate in an annual review with the understanding that the focus is on ensuring that all compliance requirements, standards of housing living quality,
and active participation in the CLASS program initiatives are being adhered to. Continued participation in CLASS is conditioned upon successful completion of the annual review.

G) The signatories to this Greek Life Commons Agreement acknowledge that they recognize and understand that, where appropriate, this Agreement necessarily supersedes some of the terms of the "Statement of Relationship Between Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Social Fraternities & Sororities at Rensselaer", and they not only agree to be bound by the terms of this Agreement but re-affirm their adherence to and support of said Statement of Relationship.

H) This Greek Commons Agreement will automatically suspend in the event the Greek Chapter signing it is suspended from recognition pursuant to the Statement of Relationship; it will terminate in the event the Greek Chapter recognition is permanently revoked. In addition, at the discretion of the Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, this Greek Life Commons Agreement may be suspended during all or part of any period in which the Greek Chapter is on Probationary Status for violations that he/she deems to jeopardize (a) the safety or security of residents, or b) the benefits of the CLASS model. Suspension or termination of the Greek Commons Agreement means that sophomore residency waivers will no longer be available for the applicable Chapter.

This Agreement shall automatically renew on a year-to-year basis unless either party provides notice of non-renewal within 60 days prior to [the anniversary date of signature.] The parties agree that the Agreement shall be reviewed on a recurring basis by members of the community, faculty and staff. This review should take place a minimum of every two years to ensure that all policies, procedures and expectations are current with best practices and meet the needs of both the Institute and the Greek Community.

Signature: ______________________________ Signature: ______________________________
Associate Dean, Greek Life Commons Chapter President Date

Signature: ______________________________
Chapter Advisor Date

Signature: ______________________________
President (or Designee) Date
Chapter Alumni Board/House Corporation
ATTACHMENT A RENSSELAER GREEK STANDARDIZED BILLING PROCESS

Rensselaer Requirements for the Privilege of Bursar Billing

Fraternity/Sorority Chapter and Member Billing/Collection Agreement

The Agreement Dated the day of , 20 , is between (“Student”) whose Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (“University”) student identification number is  and the Fraternity/Sorority (circle one) located at , Troy, New York 12180 (“Chapter”).

**STUDENT OBLIGATION:** Student will become obligated for the payment of room and board and/or social fees and dues (collectively, “Obligations”) to chapter.

**BILLING AND COLLECTION:** Student and Chapter agree to the following arrangements for the billings and collection of Student’s Obligations:

- Chapter shall bill Student directly for all Obligations owed by Student to Chapter.
- The University may enforce the right to payment of overdue billed charges in accordance with its standard policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, the prevention or cancellation of registration and the withholding of grades, transcripts, diplomas, and the right to re-admission until receipt of all sums owed by students. The Chapter shall maintain the right to enforce the financial hold agreement until all obligations are paid in full.
- Chapter shall notify the University of the amount of Obligations owed by Student. The University shall be entitled to rely upon all information given to it by Chapter not withstanding any disagreement by Student.

**NO OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY TO RESOLVE DISPUTES:** The University has no obligation to investigate or resolve any disputes regarding room and board charges between the Student and Chapter.

**RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES:** Student shall resolve with Chapter all disputes concerning Obligations owed by Student. Student acknowledges that he or she has no recourse against the University for any inaccuracies in charges reported by Chapter to the University for billing and collection as contemplated by this Agreement.

**RIGHTS RETAINED BY CHAPTER:** Chapter retains all its right to collect amounts owed to it by Student including, but not limited to, the right to sue Student in the event of nonpayment of any Obligations.

**TERM:** This Agreement is effective immediately as of the day set forth above. The Agreement shall govern collection of Obligations starting with the Fall / Spring (circle one) semester of ______(year) and will include all semesters when student is a resident of the Chapter house or receives services from the Chapter and ends when the Student is no longer enrolled at Rensselaer. Student is obligated to pay all sums owed before being released from University hold.
, hereby give authorization to the Treasurer of “{Fraternity/Sorority}” to charge any fees which I incur as a member of the fraternity to my Bursar account at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I am aware that the Bursar’s office will notify the Chapter of registration and past due account information that may affect posting of authorized charges. I acknowledge and agree to accept:

☐ Financial responsibility for any charges and/or fees posted to my account.
☐ Responsibility for understanding the Institute’s official policies concerning my financial responsibility and the impact an outstanding balance may have on holds, registration, late payment fees and leave of absences.

In Consideration Of the Fore Going, Student and Chapter assent to this Agreement as of the date set forth above.

Chapter Alumni Delegate       Student Member       RIN#
Attachment B: Greek Life Commons Vision Statement

The Greek Life Commons is a commitment to sustaining the legacy of leadership, service, education and personal excellence within the RPI Greek Community. As a diverse community of leaders, the Greek Life Commons will align all students, alumni, and community partners through selfless service, cooperative programming, and individual acts of character befitting the values and purpose of each organization and that of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. As a united Greek community, the Greek Life Commons will elevate members, chapters, and all of Rensselaer to the highest levels of excellence.