Section 1: Historical Perspective of Greek Life at Rensselaer

Overview:
The Greek community at RPI dates back to 1853 and has been an integral part of the student experience at Rensselaer, especially for those members of a fraternity or sorority. As of 2014, the Greek Life Commons recognizes 29 social fraternities and 5 social sororities, making up 28% of the RPI student population. There are two governing councils, the Interfraternity Council for fraternities and the Panhellenic Council for sororities.

Recognition of social fraternities & sororities falls under the office of the Greek Life Commons, under the umbrella of Residence Life, within the division of Student Life at Rensselaer.

The following are dormant chapters once recognized at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Chapter Designation</th>
<th>Chartered</th>
<th>Closed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraternities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theta Delta Chi</td>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>1853</td>
<td>1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Kappa Epsilon</td>
<td>Psi Omega</td>
<td>1867</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeta Beta Tau</td>
<td>Kappa Nu Kappa</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>????</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Phi Delta</td>
<td>Zeta</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Tau Omega</td>
<td>Delta Mu</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tau Kappa Epsilon</td>
<td>Gamma Epsilon</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa Alpha Psi</td>
<td>Nu Pi</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sororities:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phi Sigma Sigma</td>
<td>Gamma Theta</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>????</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Sigma Theta</td>
<td>Regional*</td>
<td>????</td>
<td>????</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Section 2: New Organization Intake Process

The Greek Life Commons Agreement is an institutional commitment to sustaining a legacy of leadership, diversity, service, education and personal excellence within the RPI Greek Community. The Greek Life Commons Agreement aligns students, alumni, and community partners through selfless service, cooperative programming, high standards of behavior and individual acts of character befitting the values and purpose of each organization and that of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Rensselaer’s Greek community, through the Greek Life Commons, seeks opportunities to add new organizations who enhance the diversity of the community whether that organization has a history at Rensselaer or would be starting a new legacy on our campus.
A. New Organization Intake/ Criteria: Interested organizations shall adhere to the following criteria to be considered for New Organization Intake to RPI’s campus:

1. Submit completed New Organization Intake Packet (outlined in Section XYZ) to the Office of the Greek Life Commons
2. Receive recommendation from the Office of the Greek Life Commons
3. Be approved by the appropriate council:
   (a) Interfraternity Council (IFC) for fraternities
   (b) Panhellenic Council (PAN) for sororities
4. Sign the Greek Life Commons Agreement (Appendix A)
5. Agree upon an outline for New Organization Intake to RPI along the lines of the following recommended fall or spring New Organization Intake effort
6. Signed approval for New Organization Intake by the Vice President of Student Life

Recommended Model for a fall semester New Organization Intake:
- Marketing/Public Relations may begin the semester prior via student newspaper ads, social media presence, etc... to be approved by the Office of the Greek Life Commons.
- Open recruitment by staff/volunteers of the national/international organization can begin one week following the conclusion of that council’s formal recruitment period.
  - Historically IFC recruitment has concluded by the last week of September and Panhellenic formal recruitment by the third weekend of September.
- For 4 weeks, the IFC or PAN councils will observe a “no compete” period, wherein existing organizations will not host any recruitment events that would compete with the new organization, if that new group would join their respective council. *Recognized organizations that recruit through the “intake” method can be excluded from this restriction upon the approval of the office of the Greek Life Commons.
  - Open recruitment/open bidding for all organizations would begin after the conclusion of the formal 4 week New Organization Intake period.

B. Recommended Model for a spring semester New Organization Intake:
Office of the Greek Life Commons New Organization Intake Policies & Expectations

- Marketing/Public Relations may begin the semester prior via student newspaper ads, social media presence, etc... to be approved by the Office of the Greek Life Commons.
- Open recruitment by staff/volunteers of the national/international organization can begin one week following the conclusion of that council's formal recruitment period.
  - Historically IFC recruitment has concluded by the second week of February and Panhellenic formal recruitment by the second week of February.
- For 4 weeks, the IFC or PAN councils will observe a “no compete” period, wherein existing organizations will not host any recruitment events that would compete with the new organization, if that new group would join their respective council. *Recognized organizations that recruit through the “intake” method can be excluded from this restriction upon the approval of the office of the Greek Life Commons.
  - Open recruitment/open bidding for all organizations would begin after the conclusion of the formal 4 week New Organization Intake period.

Section 3: Invitation to Join the RPI Greek Life Commons

A. Directions for New Organization Intake Packet Submission:
   1. To be submitted by fraternity or sorority not represented at RPI who wishes to have affiliation with the Interfraternity Council or Panhellenic Council shall submit the items outlined in subsection C. below to:

   Attn: Matthew Hunt  
   Associate Dean of the Greek Life Commons  
   Academy Hall, Suite 4600  
   110 8th Street Troy, NY 12180

B. RPI does not allow any more than one New Organization Intake group per governing council, at any given time, to be recognized by the Interfraternity Council or Panhellenic Council.

C. In order for the Office of the Greek Life Commons to determine the feasibility of the new organization set to come to RPI, the interested organization will be asked to submit a New Organization Intake packet. This should contain the following information as well as any other information the National/International Fraternity or Sorority may see fit:
   1. Academics
      a. Copy of the National/International scholastic policies and any related programs.
      b. Academic requirements for membership, activation and leadership roles.
Office of the Greek Life Commons New Organization Intake Policies & Expectations

(i) Minimum GPA requirements for members, officers, new members/pledges/novices.
(ii) Total dollar allocation for undergraduate scholarships granted during the past academic year.

(c) Alumni Statistics
(i) A brief description of alumni program including resources offered to alumni and leadership roles
(ii) Total number of alumni in the greater Albany/Troy Capital District metropolitan area that have expressed interest in assisting the new group

(d) Continuing Membership Education and Retention
(i) Description of Membership Education programs offered by the National/International Fraternity.
(ii) Description of retention strategies utilized during the New Organization Intake process and throughout membership

(e) National/International Fraternity/Sorority Requirements for Chartering
(i) Outline of the specific chapter’s requirements for chartering from the National/International Organization.

(f) National Support and Assistance
(i) Description of National/International resources available for the full development of membership education programs.
(ii) Number of traveling consultants/staff, and a ratio of consultants/staff per chapter.
(iii) Average number of annual visits and the average duration of those visits (chapter vs. New Organization Intake group).
(iv) Description of leadership development resources available to New Organization Intake group/chapters (i.e., manuals, leadership schools, conventions, etc.)

(g) New Member/Associate/Novice/Pledge Education
(i) Outline of recommended new member/associate education program.
(ii) Position statement concerning anti-hazing policies and compliance to state and university-specific policies.

(h) Philanthropic Projects/Community Service
(i) Description of National Philanthropy, if applicable.
(ii) Description of community service programs or suggested programming for community involvement.
(iii) Outline specific expectations of chapters/New Organization Intake groups with regard to philanthropies and community service.

(i) Recruitment
(i) Describe strategies to be utilized in recruiting new members, including recruitment of diverse membership.
(ii) Describe tools and/or programs available to New Organization Intake groups and chapters to aid in member recruitment.

(iii) Number, if known, of collegiate members enrolled as RPI transfer students.

(j) Re-admittance (Provide only if the National/International Fraternity has previously been on RPI's campus).

(i) List the year's the organization was at RPI.

(ii) List the average chapter size of the organization while at RPI.

(iii) List the total number of RPI alumni.

(iv) Describe the reasons for previously leaving RPI.

(k) Risk Management

(i) Include a copy of the National/International Fraternity's risk management program.

(ii) Describe National/International programming that educates chapters or New Organization Intake groups about risk reduction and legal issues.

(iii) Describe the required liability insurance coverage per member.

(iv) Include an example copy of the certificate of liability insurance provided host institutions annually.

(v) Description of Standards or Judicial board process to maintain an organization with high ethical and behavioral standards, including training, and accountability.

(vi)

(l) Statistical Information of the National/International Organization

(i) Number of chapters nationwide.

(ii) Average size of current chapters.

(iii) Number of New Organization Intake groups established/lost over the past five years.

(iv) Percentage of New Organization Intake groups receiving charters.

(v) Average time period for chartering of new New Organization Intake groups.

(m) Fiscal sustainability of the National/International Organization

(i) Dues billing structure for individual member or chapters.

(ii) Projected budget for the first three years of operation.

(iii) Training provided to students and alumni acting in a financial leadership position.

(iv) Housing Support for chapters seeking future housing.

a. Examples of support given to existing chapters to acquire competitive housing on their campus.

b. Means to support the potential chapter at RPI
c. Provide examples of advising structure designed to support chapter, provide oversight of risk management, fiscal responsibility, and overall student conduct.
d. How would your organization recruit, train, and supervise these advisors?
(v) Annual Audit: Please provide a description of your annual process to audit the financial operation of your undergraduate chapters and affiliated alumni or housing corporations to ensure financial responsibility and prevent fraudulent behaviors.

D. The only exception to all of the above would be an interest group started by students at RPI who have communicated with the Office of the Greek Life Commons for assistance in receiving a national sponsor before receiving a national/international sponsor. They would skip to Section 3 and then proceed directly to Section 4: Student Interest Groups

Section 4: Student Interest Groups
A. Student Interest Groups (SIG) are defined as 10 or more Rensselaer students not currently affiliated or linked to any RPI or other national/international organization who is interested in starting a new fraternity/sorority, or readmittance of an organization previously on Rensselaer’s campus.
B. Criteria of a Student Interest Group for consideration of recognition by Office of the Greek Life Commons:
(1) A roster of SIG members must be compiled and submitted to the Office of the Greek Life Commons containing:
   (i) First, middle, & last name
   (ii) RIN #
   (iii) Previous semester GPA and Cumulative GPA (RPI Only for both)
   (iv) Anticipated graduation semester (Fall ‘16 or Spring ‘17 for example)
   (v) Major
(2) All members of the interest group must be currently registered RPI students.
   (i) Any interest group with a majority of members graduating within that academic year will not be considered sustainable.
(3) All members must have an RPI minimum 2.5 GPA (Not including 1st semester freshmen or 1st semester transfer students who do not have an official RPI GPA yet).
(4) No members can have been previous initiates of any RPI Recognized Fraternity or Sorority.
(5) The SIG will have to submit a 1 page executive summary including the following focus topics:
   (i) Why they wish to form a new fraternity or sorority
   (ii) The extent to which they have researched the existing recognized Greek organizations.
Office of the Greek Life Commons New Organization Intake Policies & Expectations

(iii) How their proposed new organization would differ from the existing groups on campus and add value and diversity to the Greek Life Commons and greater Rensselaer community.

(iv) One year, five year, and ten year forecast for this organization. What does the SIG expect the group to look like during those years (membership size, impact on campus, alumni/alumnae involvement housing needs etc...)

(v) If the national/international organization is a former affiliate group, explain the group’s methodology for selecting that organization, timeline of contact, list of contacts, and other discussed mutual expectations.

(vi) Description of Standards or Judicial board process to maintain an organization with high ethical and behavioral standards, including training, and accountability.

(vii) Strategy for ensuring a diverse student organization.

C. The Student Interest Group’s materials will be reviewed by the Office of the Greek Life Commons with assistance from members of the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and Alumni Inter-Greek Council. The Office of the Greek Life Commons shall contact the student interest group to discuss potential next steps towards receiving an invitation to selected for intake to RPI or to inform the group that their proposed group will not be considered.

Section 5: New Organization Intake Group Expectations

A. New Organization Intake Group Membership

(1) Once an IFC/PAN New Organization Intake group has been recognized and approved by the Office of the Greek Life Commons, the VP for Student Life, the Interfraternity Council or Panhellenic Council and their national/international Office, the group will be formally recognized as a New Organization Intake group member of their respective council at the next available council meeting or as designated by a previously agreed upon New Organization Intake plan with the OGLC.

(2) New Organization Intake organizations will abide by the RPI IFC/PAN Constitution and Bylaws, RPI Student Code of Conduct, all national/international policies and all local, state and federal laws.

(3) New Organization Intake group membership status may be revoked by a 2/3 vote of the council delegates.

(4) New Organization Intake organizations will not have the right to vote on any IFC/PAN related issues, nor may they hold any Executive Board position.

(a) During the second full semester of New Organization Intake group recognition, the group can propose to their governing board to gain
voting rights for all budget related proposals. In doing so, the group also agrees to be charged the standard IFC or PAN dues during that semester and is then eligible to attend events that are subsidized or paid by the governing council.

(5) New Organization Intake organization members may not serve in leadership roles within council committees.
   (a) New Organization Intake group members may participate within council committees with the permission of their group advisor, OGLC, and the President of their governing council.

(6) Greek Liaison Program: Each new organization will work with the OGLC to participate in the Greek Liaison Program. The Greek Liaison is a Rensselaer Faculty member who will serve as an additional advisor and liaison to the organization to assist in the guidance of the members, review RPI Student Conduct compliance expectations, and work to ensure that the group at all times represents themselves and Rensselaer in a positive and productive manner.

B. It is the understanding of the OGLC that New Organization Intake groups must commit the majority of their time to recruitment activities during their first semester and therefore, the group may not be a consistent participant in all IFC/PAN related activities.

C. IFC/PAN/AIGC meeting attendance is however highly encouraged.

D. The goal of every New Organization Intake group should be to receive a charter from the sponsoring National/International Fraternity and to gain full IFC/PAN membership.

E. The OGLC recommends chartering to occur within four (4) semesters and failure to do so may result in loss of recognition from OGLC and therefore loss of recognition from RPI.
Office of the Greek Life Commons New Organization Intake Policies & Expectations

Appendix A: Greek Life Commons Agreement

Greek Life Commons Agreement
2014

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: faculty deans living near each of the commons, live-in commons deans, upper class and graduate student assistants. It also incorporates the Dean of the First-Year Experience, and class-year deans (e.g., Class of 2013, Class of 2014, etc). 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, beginning in the Fall 2010, 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, if your chapter is approved to actively participate in the CLASS initiative, it will receive the full benefit of:

A) The Sophomore-Year Experience (effective fall, 2010 and beyond)
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.” (Attachment A)
- Rensselaer Greek Standardized Billing Process (Attachment B)
- Rensselaer health, safety, and fire protection (Attachment C)
- Annual 5-Star Standards of Accreditation (Attachment D)
- Greek Life Commons Vision Statement (Attachment E)
- The Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities
- City of Troy and New York State code requirements

Therefore, for those who elect to participate, effective fall, 2010 and beyond, as 
members of the Greek Life Commons you agree:

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

B) To actively participate in Faculty Deans programs focused on the 
   stimulation of the intellectual, cultural, and social life of the Residential 
   Commons;

C) To pro-actively respond to Assistant Dean outreach counseling and 
   personal development initiatives;

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

E) To actively participate in Greek Life Commons programs designed to 
   strengthen Greek Life as a community;
F) 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 end of the school year and at the beginning of each fall semester, beginning fall, 2010, to ensure that each signatory will meet the Institute Residential Commons Standards.

G) To participate in an annual review of the Commons Agreement as an extension of existing annual reviews 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.

H) 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.

By: _______________________________                      By: _______________________________
Dr. Todd Schill, Dean of Residence Life                        Chapter President

Date: _______                          Date: ______

Chapter Name: _____________

By: _______________________________
Chapter Advisor                      Date

By: _______________________________
President (or Designee) Date
Chapter Alumni Board/House Corporation