



## CONSTITUTION OF THE PANHELLENIC COUNCIL AT UCONN

### PREAMBLE

The Panhellenic Council at the University of Connecticut (UConn) is established based on the belief that the fraternity experience contributes to a well-rounded college education. Recognizing our relationship in respect to the University, the community, and the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) and their inherent obligations, The Panhellenic Council is established to develop and maintain high standards of fraternity life, foster interfraternity relations, promote common goals and ideals, and effectively lead its member chapters. With this in mind, the Panhellenic Council does hereby adopt this Constitution.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Whereas the fraternity experience strives to create member development in areas of scholarship, service, leadership development, social and moral standards and fraternalism: The Panhellenic Council is created to effectively lead its member organizations towards attainment of these objectives and to operate as one of the major student organizations at UConn. In order to accomplish this, The Panhellenic Council shall:

- Promote superior scholarship as the foundation of intellectual development.
- Provide programming to increase the strength of our system, its members, and their pursuits.
- Serve as a resource by providing up-to-date information and resources for our member chapters.
- Serve as a communications facilitator between chapters, between the Greek System and the University, and between the Greek System and all other communities.
- Establish a close working relationship with the Involvement Center, the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Intercultural Greek Council (IGC), the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), the Greek Community Affairs Board (GCAB), all individual Greek organizations, and all other University of Connecticut student and administrative bodies.
- Act in accordance with the National Panhellenic Conference UNANIMOUS AGREEMENTS and policies.

## **ARTICLE I**

### *NAME*

The name of this body shall be the Panhellenic Council at the University of Connecticut.

## **ARTICLE II**

### *OBJECT*

The object of the Panhellenic Council shall be to develop and maintain fraternity life and interfraternity relations at a high level of accomplishment and in doing so to effectively operate within the guidelines established by its mission statement and by any goals established each semester by the Panhellenic Council.

## **ARTICLE III**

### *MEMBERSHIP*

Section 1: There shall be three categories of membership: Regular, Provisional and Associate.

Section 2: The REGULAR membership of the Panhellenic Council shall be composed of the membership of all NPC women's fraternities at UConn which are in good standing.

Section 3: The PROVISIONAL membership of the Panhellenic Council shall be composed of all chapter members in good standing of NPC colonies and pledged chapters at UConn.

Section 4: ASSOCIATE membership of the Panhellenic Council shall be composed of all members in good standing of local sororities or interest groups or national or regional non-NPC member groups that have met the requirements for membership in UConn Panhellenic Association.

- Sustainability proven by actively growing over the course of three full academic semesters and have maintained membership over 25 women
- Maintaining a majority of the membership, as freshman, sophomore, and junior semester standing women
- Programming and membership development in line with the four basic values of fraternal life- leadership development, academic excellence, community service, and sisterhood
- Continuously works with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Maintaining registration with the Department of Student Activities as a student organization in good standing
- Maintaining a risk management policies, including anti-hazing, in line with FIPG
- Continuing support from advisor or alumnae

All ASSOCIATE members will agree to abide by NPC UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT and policies.

Section 5: The Panhellenic Council does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures, or practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, physical disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, marital status, or citizenship

Section 6: In order for an interest group to become a member of the Panhellenic Council, the group must meet the entire requirements list in the above section 4 of the *Membership* section. The interest group must then present a *Petition for Membership* to the Panhellenic Council that provides information proving that the interest group meets all of the preset requirements; including but not limited to: examples of values based programming and member development, involvement in the campus community, level of advisor or alumnae support, continued growth in membership, a copy of the current constitution and any other governing policies including risk management and anti-hazing policies. Also, the petition must include a letter of request signed by the entire membership and advisor(s).

Clause 1: The interest group must present the *Petition for Membership* at a Panhellenic Council meeting and provide enough copies of all material for each member group of the Panhellenic Council as well as the Panhellenic Council Executive Board and Panhellenic Advisor. The *Petition for Membership* shall be voted on at the next Panhellenic Council meeting; one week unless told otherwise.

## ARTICLE IV

### OFFICERS

Section 1: The Executive Board will coordinate all Panhellenic Council activities.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall consist of the following eight members.

- President
- Vice President of Administration
- Vice President of Recruitment
- Vice President of External Affairs
- Vice President of Internal Affairs
- Vice President of Communications
- Vice President of Finance
- Vice President of Public Relations

Section 3: The members of the Panhellenic Council Executive Board are expected to act as the leadership team for the Panhellenic Council. This includes, but not limited to:

Clause 1: Maintaining a working knowledge for all UConn and fraternity and sorority policies and procedures that might affect members of the fraternity community.

Clause 2: Maintaining full working knowledge of all fraternity and sorority community wide events and activates.

Clause 3: Attending and actively participating in all meetings and events scheduled through the Panhellenic Council at UConn.

Clause 4: Maintaining regular contact with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life as well as with UConn's NPC Area Advisor.

Clause 5: Holding regular weekly office hours in a central public location determined by the officer (approximately 2 hours a week).

Clause 6: Overseeing any ad hoc committees assigned by Panhellenic policies or the Executive Board.

Clause 7: Administrating routine business between meetings of the Panhellenic Council and such other business that has been approved for Panhellenic Council vote.

Section 4: The officers of the Panhellenic Council shall be members of NPC Fraternities and recognized associate and provisional organizations registered at UConn. Only a member of a chapter holding regular membership may fill the positions of President, Vice President of Administration and Vice President of Recruitment. Members of an interest group, although an associate member of the Panhellenic Council may not hold a Panhellenic Council Executive Officer position.

Section 5: The term of the Executive Board officers shall be one-year term beginning in and ending January of the next year. Any vacancies of the Executive Board shall be filled by special election for the remaining time of the appointed term.

Section 6: The Panhellenic Executive Board shall meet once a week on the day decided upon by the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE V**

### *THE PANHELLENIC COUNCIL*

Section 1: It shall be the duty of the Panhellenic Council to administer all business related to the overall welfare of the member organization and to compile rules including recruitment, which do not violate sovereignty, rights and privileges of member fraternities.

Section 2: Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Panhellenic Council shall be selected by their respective fraternity chapters to serve for a term of one year based on their respective chapter elections.

Section 3: When a Delegate vacancy occurs, it shall be the responsibility of the respective chapter to select a replacement within two weeks and to notify the Vice President Communications of her name, address and telephone number. When a meeting of the Panhellenic Council occurs while there is a Delegate vacancy, the Alternate Delegate of the respective fraternity shall fulfill the duties of the delegate in all cases.

Section 4: The regular meeting of the Panhellenic Council shall be held weekly at a time to be determined at the beginning of each college semester. Special meetings of the Panhellenic Council may be called by the President when necessary and shall be called by her upon the written request of any Delegate to Panhellenic Council.

Section 5: The Panhellenic Council shall be composed of:

- The eight standing Panhellenic Council Executive Board Officers
- A Delegate and Alternate Delegate from each Panhellenic sorority at UConn.

## ARTICLE VI

### *DELEGATES*

Section 1: The Delegates shall be elected by their respective chapters and act as liaisons between the Panhellenic Council and chapter members. Each member group of the Panhellenic Council must maintain a delegate and an alternate delegate.

Section 2: It shall be in the Delegate and Alternate Delegate responsibilities to attend each weekly meeting of the Panhellenic Council. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate fails to attend two consecutive Panhellenic Council meetings, the chapter will be formally notified. If a third consecutive meeting is missed, the chapter will be required to elect a new Delegate or Alternate Delegate, in respect to the case.

Section 3: The Panhellenic Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be the chairs of the Panhellenic standing committees as stated in the Panhellenic Council Constitution.

Clause 1: Delegates and Alternate Delegates are required to join one of the standing committees.

Section 4: The Panhellenic Council will provide delegate and alternate delegate training that is mandatory in the spring.

Section 5: Each Delegate and Alternate Delegate must uphold all responsibilities as outlined in the *Panhellenic Council Delegate Manual*. If they do not, the Panhellenic Council Executive Board will notify them with written notification. If after two weeks, there has been no improvement, the Executive Board will notify the chapter that a new delegate or alternate delegate must be elected within two weeks.

## ARTICLE VII

### *VOTING*

Section 1: The voting members of the Panhellenic Council shall be the Delegates of each fraternity holding membership. If a Delegate is absent, the vote of her fraternity shall be cast by its Alternate. If both Delegate and Alternate are absent the vote may be cast by a member of the fraternity, provided her credentials have been presented in writing to the Council President prior to the meeting.

Section 2: Three-quarters of the voting members of the Panhellenic Council shall be required to establish recruitment rules, to establish total chapter size, to set recruitment dates and in matters of extension. A majority vote shall be required to carry all other questions.

Section 3: The Alternate Delegates, Alumni Advisors, and Executive Board shall have voice but no vote.

Section 4: Only regular members of the Panhellenic Association may vote on matters regarding extension and fully structured recruitment.

Section 5: The Panhellenic President reserves the right to request the presence of chapter presidents at a meeting when an important vote will take place. She shall notify the delegates that the chapter president is requested at the next Panhellenic Council meeting. She also reserves the right to request the presence of any other chapter officer for a vote. The chapter delegate shall always hold the voting rights, regardless of other chapter officers being present.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### *PANHELLENIC ADVISOR*

Section 1: The Panhellenic Advisor shall be a member of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. The Panhellenic Council Executive Board reserves the right to review/consider an additional advisor as needed.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### *UNANIMOUS AGREEMENTS*

Section 1: All chapter members shall act in accordance with the fundamental Panhellenic rules and policies established by NPC in the UNANIMOUS AGREEMENTS (The Panhellenic Compact, Standards of Ethical Conduct, College Panhellenic Agreement, Agreements on Questionnaires and Constitutions, and Jurisdiction of a College Panhellenic Council).

Section 2: All Panhellenic Council rules and policies shall be in harmony with those currently approved by NPC.

## **ARTICLE X**

### *ELECTIONS*

Section 1: Elections will take place in November with dates to be determined by the Vice President of Administration. The Vice President Administration and President will oversee the election process.

Section 2: Chapter Delegates, Chapter Presidents, and outgoing Panhellenic Executive Board officers, who have not applied for a new term, shall be present during elections.

Clause 1: Panhellenic President and Vice President of Administration shall facilitate the election process.

Clause 2: Outgoing Panhellenic Executive Officers shall produce the question portion of the interview process.

Clause 3: Each chapter must have two members representing the chapter at the election meeting. It is up to the chapter's discretion as to which of the following representatives will attend the election meeting: Current President, newly elected president, Panhellenic delegate or alternate delegate.

Section 3: When a resignation or a removal occurs in one Panhellenic Executive Board officer, a special election shall be held for that office. The special election shall follow the same procedure as the regular election.

#### Section 4: Procedure for Panhellenic Council Executive Board Elections

Clause 1: Each chapter Delegate and Chapter President will be provided a copy of each applicant's application as well as any other necessary information or materials. Copies of the interview questions will be distributed as well.

Clause 2: Each applicant shall schedule an interview time slot with the Vice President of Administration before the date of elections. The interview slots shall be no less than 20 minutes apart.

Clause 3: The Panhellenic President or Vice President of Administration shall review the process with delegates and presidents prior to elections. When the process is clearly understood, the first delegate may enter the room. Once the applicant has answered all questions, she may step out of the room.

Clause 4: After each interview, the group will discuss the applicant. The discussion will be focused on how the applicant could serve as Panhellenic Executive Officer. Constructive criticisms that relate to the topic at hand are allowed. No discussions during elections are permitted to leave the room. After everyone is satisfied with the discussion, and all questions related to the applicant's qualifications are answered, the next interview may begin.

Clause 5: Once all interviews have been completed, voting may begin. The chapter president and delegate shall come to a joint decision. The chapter delegate will cast the vote for the chapter. The present outgoing Panhellenic Executive Officers shall have voice, but no vote. Associate members of Panhellenic will not be eligible to vote of Vice President of Recruitment. Discussion, slating, voting and confirmation for Panhellenic Executive Officers shall occur in the following order:

- President
- Vice President of Administration
- Vice President of Recruitment
- Vice President of Finance
- Vice President of Communication
- Vice President of Public Relations
- Vice President of Internal Relations
- Vice President of External Relations

Clause 6: The Panhellenic President or Vice President of Administration shall lead the discussion, slating and voting process. First, all nominations for president shall be listed. This includes any application who has indicated interest as well as any other nominations of applicants from the floor. Each applicant will be discussed until everyone is satisfied and ready to vote. Then a silent vote shall take place. The Panhellenic President and Panhellenic Advisor shall tally the vote and announce the slated President. A majority vote is needed. Once an applicant is slated, someone shall call the applicant to confirm. Once the slated woman has confirmed, the group shall move to Vice President of Administration. The above process is continued until all eight Panhellenic Executive offices are confirmed.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### *STANDING*

Section 1: A women's fraternity remains in good standing if the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the Panhellenic Executive Board.

Clause 1: The fraternity is recognized by its National Organization.

Clause 2: The fraternity is recognized by UConn and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

Clause 3: The fraternity has met all financial obligations to the Panhellenic Council.

Clause 4: The fraternity has not violated any policies or documents of the Panhellenic Council.

Clause 5: The fraternity is actively participating in the Panhellenic Council.

Clause 6: The fraternity is actively participating in other councils and organizations such as the Greek Community Affairs board, Junior Panhellenic Council, UNITE, etc.

Section 2: If a chapter's delegate or alternate delegate misses two consecutive Panhellenic Council meetings, the chapter will be notified in writing by the Panhellenic Executive Board that it is in danger of losing its good standing with the Panhellenic Council.

Section 3: If a chapter accumulates two or more unexcused absences, it will be in danger of losing its good standing.

Section 4: If a chapter loses its good standing, it loses its voting privileges with the Panhellenic Council. If a chapter is not meeting its obligations there will be recourse through conversation with the chapter and/or with their national organization.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### *AMENDMENTS*

Section 1: Any addition or amendment to this document shall be approved by two-thirds majority vote of the Panhellenic Council. The amendment or change must be presented in writing at a regular Panhellenic meeting with voting to take place no sooner than two weeks later.

Section 2: The Constitution must be ratified by all member fraternities once a year to ensure that the document continues to represent the interests of the Panhellenic Council.

Section 3: The Panhellenic Executive Board must review the Constitution at least at the conclusion of each term of office prior to officer transition and submit any recommendations for changes to the Panhellenic Council.



## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **BENEFICIARY ADENDUM**

Beneficiary Name: National Panhellenic Conference

Beneficiary Address: 8777 Purdue Road, Suite 117 Indianapolis, IN 46268

Beneficiary Contact: Patricia Disque

Beneficiary Phone: (317) 872-3185

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **ENABLING CLAUSE**

Any portion of this constitution may be eliminated, revised, or supplemented at a regular or special meeting upon a 2/3 vote of the member fraternities, provided that the proposed change has been presented in writing at the previous meeting and shall not be voted on for at least two weeks. When accepted the new provisions shall immediately replace the old.

President:

Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer: