

# A program outline of the Fraternal Relevance and Minimum Expectations Program

Kansas State University Greek Affairs, Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council

The Kansas State University Fraternal Relevance and Minimum Standards process is a two-fold system of evaluating the member chapters of the Kansas State University Greek Community. The process of reviewing chapters for the attainment of minimum expectations as well as chapter-focused outcomes holds purpose in ensuring local chapters are relevant to their national or international organization, the university and Manhattan community, the Kansas State University undergraduate student body and therefore is a relevant member of their governing council. All Chapters are expected to take part in the annual review.

## Proposals for Chapter Accreditation

- Each chapter will submit an Accreditation proposal annually between December and January to be reviewed by Relevance Judges and the Accreditation Committee.

## Process for developing proposals

- Chapters can make their experience their own as long as it supports the mission of their organization and reinforces fraternal relevance.
- Chapters will review their own inter/national organization's mission and prove that they are achieving outcomes in relation to their mission → mission & action congruence + relevance.
- Chapters should consider the mission of their inter/national organizations as they relate to areas of standards when proving their achievement of outcomes:
  1. Sustainability: recruitment & retention
  2. Risk Management
  3. Academic Health
  4. Membership Development
  5. Relationships: headquarters, alumni, neighbors, K-State and interfraternal organizations
  6. Engagement: service, philanthropy and campus leadership & involvement
  7. Chapter Development: finances and property management
  8. Advancement: assurance of a loyalty to vision and overall outstanding performance
- Each year chapters will set outcomes for the upcoming year and record action taken to achieve the outcomes from the previous year.
- Additionally, chapters are asked to self-identify areas of chapter operation which lack relevance.

## Evaluating and reviewing proposals

- The criteria for accreditation are based on fraternal relevance as well as the mission and action congruence of each organization.
- The Accreditation Committee and Relevance Judges will evaluate and assess cultural influences and member learning outcomes rather than performance indicators.
- Relevance Judges will be sought out and selected based on their relationship to other Kansas Greek communities and Peer Institutions.
- The Accreditation Committee is comprised of the incoming and outgoing Interfraternity & Panhellenic Council Presidents, Alumni Fraternity Council President, Flint Hills Panhellenic representative and Greek Affairs Staff (10 total).

## Scoring

- Proposals will first be reviewed by relevance judges and given a score of clearly relevant, relevant, building relevance or irrelevant in each of the areas of standards which will be submitted to the Accreditation Committee.
- The Accreditation Committee will consider the scores from the relevance judges, feedback collected through public forum and the collective knowledge from committee members to finalize chapter scores.

## Building Relevance

- Underperforming chapters will develop a plan to build relevance.
- Plans to build relevance will be submitted to the Accreditation Committee for approval.
- Chapters must show signs of progress to achieve continued accreditation or remain in a developmental status.
- Progress is defined as meeting chapter outcomes as outlined in the plan to build relevance.
- Chapters underperforming for greater than 1 year without sign of progress will be further reviewed, and the Accreditation Committee may recommend these chapters' recognition be removed by the chapter's governing council (IFC/PHC).
- Chapter presidents ultimately make the decision to remove or continue the chapter's recognition.

## Accreditation Timeline

### 2008-2009

- January 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>: Greek Leadership Retreat: Chapters will receive the Accreditation and Minimum Standards program guide and instruction from Greek Affairs staff.
- January 14<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chapters develop their Accreditation and Minimum Standards Proposal.
- February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chapter Accreditation & Minimum Standards proposals are due to Greek Affairs.
- February 4<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>: Relevance judges review proposals and report their scores to the Accreditation Committee. Accreditation Committee meets to review the scores given by the relevance judges and score chapters based on their review. (Chapters will be reviewed in order from least relevant to clearly relevant according the previous year's scores).
- March 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>: Chapters develop their plan to build relevance and submit them to the Accreditation committee for approval.
- Late March: Plans to build relevance are approved by the Accreditation Committee and the chapter will begin implementing the plan.
- April – December: Chapter's receive periodic check-ins from the Accreditation Committee.

### 2009 and beyond

- November 1<sup>st</sup>: Chapters will receive the Accreditation and Minimum Standards program guide.
- November & December: Chapters develop their Accreditation and Minimum Standards Proposal.
- December (finals week): Chapter Accreditation & Minimum Standards proposals are due to Greek Affairs.
- Winter Break: Relevance judges review proposals and report their scores to the Accreditation Committee.
- Mid-Late January: Accreditation Committee meets to review the scores given by the relevance judges and score chapters based on their review. (Chapters will be reviewed in order from least relevant to clearly relevant according the previous year's scores).
- February 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>: Chapters develop their plan to build relevance and submit them to the Accreditation committee for approval.
- Late February: Plans to build relevance are approved by the Accreditation Committee and the chapter will begin implementing the plan.
- March – December: Chapter's receive periodic check-ins from the Accreditation Committee.

## Minimum Expectations Review

Minimum expectations are not an attempt at assessment, however they will help to monitor basic chapter performance as well as offer opportunity for proper community record keeping.

Chapters must:

- Maintain a 2.5 chapter GPA
- Pay dues on time or develop a payment plan
- Submit all essential documents according to the Essential Documents policy
- Attend appropriate council & required meetings
- Maintain recognition as an official student organization
- Have a listed and active faculty and primary advisor
- Have a listed and active house corporation president when property is owned or managed
- File appropriate documentation of annual safety inspections
- Follow the crisis management plan
- Demonstrate a connection with their inter/national organization

## Developmental Status

If a chapter fails to achieve accreditation or meet minimum expectations they will be placed on a developmental status for 1 semester. The chapter will be reviewed again the following semester and if no progress is made, the Accreditation Committee will recommend to their appropriate governing council the chapter loses recognition.

- Chapters may only be placed on developmental status as a result of failure to comply with minimum standards at the end of a semester for the following semester.
- Chapters may come off developmental status at any time, should the chapter be able to show proof of meeting minimum standard.
- Chapters will not be granted developmental status for greater than 1 semester.
- Chapters not resolving issues placing the chapter on developmental status at the conclusion of one semester will be automatically recommended to the appropriate governing council for loss of recognition.

Developmental status does not limit chapter privileges, but allows time for chapter growth and development. Chapters are expected to work to areas in which they are underperforming.

## Greek Awards

Exemplary chapters in relation to relevance will be recognized at the Greek Awards program.

[www.k-state.edu/greek/berelevant.htm](http://www.k-state.edu/greek/berelevant.htm)