PLEDGE’S/NEW MEMBER’S BILL OF RIGHTS

Statutory Authority

This Pledge’s Bill of Rights has been developed by the Attorney General pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:3-24 et seq.

Pledge

For the purpose of this Pledge’s Bill of Rights a pledge is defined as any student of the college/university attempting to become a member of a fraternity or sorority or other similar campus organization.

Definition of Hazing

For the purpose of this Pledge’s Bill of Rights “hazing” shall mean

1. As indicated, pursuant to New Jersey Statute:

   2C:40-3  a. A person is guilty of hazing, a disorderly persons offense, if, in connection with initiation of applicants to or members of student or fraternal organizations, he knowingly or recklessly organizes, promotes, facilitates or engages in any conduct, other than competitive athletic events, which places or may place another person in danger of bodily injury.

   b. A person is guilty of aggravated hazing; a crime of the fourth degree, if he commits an act prohibited in subsection a. which results in serious bodily injury to another person.

   2C:40-4 Notwithstanding any other provision of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to a prosecution under this act.

   2C:40-5 Conduct constituting an offense under this Act may, at the discretion of the prosecuting attorney, be prosecuted under any other applicable provision of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes; and

2. Other behaviors or activities in addition to those prohibited under N.J.S.A. 2C:40 et seq. defined as hazing by a college or university with respect to its students.

Prohibition on Hazing

1. A pledge shall have the right to be free of all activities which may constitute hazing while attempting to become a member of a fraternity or sorority, or other campus organization. Campus organizations and their members are prohibited from engaging in or encouraging others to engage in activities that are defined as hazing.
2. A broad range of behaviors that may place another person in danger of bodily injury or behavior that demonstrates indifference or disregard for another person’s dignity or well-being may be classified as hazing under the above definition. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

- Forced or required ingestion of alcohol, drugs, food or any undesirable substance.
- Participation in sexual rituals or assaults.
- Mentally abusive or demeaning behavior.
- Acts that could result in physical, mental or emotional deprivation or harm.
- Physical abuse, e.g., whipping, paddling, beating, tattooing, branding, and exposure to the elements.

Acceptable Behavior

The pledge initiation process should be conducted in a manner that respects the dignity of pledges and protects their mental and physical well being. Examples of acceptable behavior include pledge activities that are not classified as hazing, but promote scholarship, promote service, develop leadership and/or social skills, assist career goals, involve students with alumni, improve relations with others, build awareness of fraternity or sorority history, instill a sense of brotherhood or sisterhood, foster solidarity or otherwise promote the institutional mission of the host college or university.

Written Notification of Rights

Institutions shall require all fraternities, sororities and other similar campus organizations to provide all pledges with a written bill of Rights that includes the provisions set forth herein. The written Bill of Rights shall be signed by the student pledge and filed in the appropriate office of the institution.

Other Policies Governing the Rush or Pledge Process

1. Delineation of additional responsibilities of fraternities, sororities and other similar campus organizations in regard to rush or pledge activities shall rest with individual institutions. As such, institutions may develop policies and regulations governing other aspects of the rush or pledge process, which may include pledge and membership education, student eligibility
to pledge, limitations on the pledge period and membership selection.

2. Institutions may develop policies and procedures for discipline violations of its pledge process. Institutional action on a hazing violation is independent of any action that a prosecutor may pursue for violations under Title 2C.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE PLEDGE’S BILL OF RIGHTS AND WILL ABIDE BY COLLEGE POLICIES REGARDING PLEDGE PROGRAMS AND PRE-INITIATION ACTIVITIES.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER’S SIGNATURE ____________________________

NATIONAL FRATERNITY/SORORITY ______________________________

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER ______________________________________

DATE _______________________________________________________

COMPOSITION:

1. Fraternities and sororities are recognized to consist of active members and new members or associates.

2. Only active members may requisition services and space on behalf of the chapter. Active body members may requisition services on behalf of their new members or alumni.

3. Each chapter must submit a current list of active members to the Office of Student Development during the first two weeks of each semester.

4. All space and service agreements may be voided if a chapter fails to submit a list of members by the required date.

5. Any chapter who fails to submit current membership lists during an entire academic year may have its recognition suspended until a current list is on file in the Office of Student Development. Failure to submit a list for two consecutive academic years will result in suspension of the chapter. To regain recognition, the chapter must meet current requirements for recognition.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

1. All fraternities and sororities are obligated to assure that the cumulative grade point of their members at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is at least a 2.0 each semester.

2. Fraternities and sororities whose cumulative grade point average is less than a 2.0 shall be classified as on probationary status and their national organization shall be notified. During the probationary period, the chapter will be required to sponsor a study skills workshop and a time management workshop which will be mandatory for all active members with an individual grade point average of less than a 2.0.
3. If an organization records a cumulative grade point average of less than a 2.0 for two consecutive semesters, it shall lose all organizational privileges on campus and its recognition will be suspended until it is in compliance with the minimum academic standards for fraternities and sororities.

4. The Dean of Students, or his/her designees, shall administer these standards.

**Expansion for NPC Women's Fraternities:**

1. When all NPC chapters are over or close to total; or, a need arises as determined by the Office of Student Development and the Panhellenic Council; consideration will be given to adding another chapter.

2. An NPC fraternity shall organize such a chapter through colonization. NPC guidelines should be followed as closely as possible when establishing a new chapter. The College, however, reserves the right to override any NPC rule that is in conflict with a decision of Stockton College officials.

3. All new chapters seeking recognition must provide proof of insurance to the Office of Student Development prior to colonization. The insurance requirement may be waived in the case of chapters who do not conduct a new member program. Requests for a waiver of the insurance requirement must be made, in writing, and be accompanied by a detailed description of the intake process of the organization.

4. All expansion activities, including colonization and subsequent conferral of recognition, must be approved by the Dean of Students and the Director of Student Development.

**Expansion for all other Nationally Affiliated Chapters:**

1. All expansion activities, including colonization and subsequent conferral of recognition, must be approved by the Dean of Students and the Director of Student Development.

2. Expansion of NIC, NPHC and other fraternal organizations with a national affiliation will be considered when existing organizations do not meet the needs of a significant number of students.

3. There must be a minimum of 30 students to colonize an NIC fraternity and 6 members to colonize an NPHC or Latin fraternity or sorority.

4. All fraternities and sororities seeking permission to colonize must provide a letter of interest from a fraternity or sorority official (non-undergraduate), a current national constitution, proof of a one million dollar liability insurance policy, a current national comprehensive anti-hazing statement, and any other information requested by the College before consideration for colonization will be given.

5. The College reserves the right to manage expansion and determine the number of chapters that may colonize at any time.
CONFERRAL OF PERMANENT RECOGNITION AS INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS TO FORMING FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES:

1. All forming social fraternities or sororities must be in compliance with current Expansion and Recognition Policies.

2. A fraternity or sorority in the process of establishing a chapter will be designated a colony (i.e. temporary recognition) for not less than one semester. The Office of Student Development may extend the colonization period if it requires additional time to evaluate a forming chapter prior to granting permanent chapter status to the group.

3. The colony's sponsoring organization must be a nationally affiliated fraternity or sorority.

4. The colony must adhere to College regulations as well as federal and state statutes.

5. Within two semesters of colonization, the colony will submit a petition for recognition to the Office of Student Development that must include the following:
   a. A one million-dollar liability insurance certificate.
   b. A current membership list that includes a social security number for each member and contact information for officers.
   c. Contact information for a chapter advisor.
   d. A current copy of the local group's constitution.
   e. A comprehensive anti-hazing statement.
   f. Certification that all members have completed mandatory educational programs as designated by the Office of Student Development.
   g. Program descriptions and evaluations to include at least one colony sponsored educational program and one service program per semester.
   h. A completed Self Evaluation Packet (available in the Office of Student Development).
   i. Any other information the colony believes to demonstrate merit for permanent recognition.

6. Previously recognized chapters that have been designated as "inactive" for more than one year may be required by the Office of Student Development to meet these requirements in order to regain recognition.

7. The Office of Student Development will review all petitions and make a written recommendation to the Dean of Students regarding conferral of recognition. The Dean of Students will confer recognition on those organizations that meet the requirements and have demonstrated a positive contribution to the College community.

8. The group must appoint an on-campus advisor.