

# Path Moving Forward



## **Purdue Fraternity, Sorority, and Cooperative Life Leadership Team 2018**

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## Frame of Reference

The Fraternity, Sorority, and Cooperative Life (FSCL) Leadership Team at Purdue University is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and successful environment for our members. The collaborative relationship between our community and the university is mutually beneficial and supportive. In 2017, members within fraternities and sororities across the country were responsible for incidents that caused physical, mental, and emotional harm, including death. These events have ignited a conversation about our current culture and potential changes that must be made. The future of Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative life is being scrutinized on a more intense level than ever before, and the Purdue community must adjust accordingly in this critical time period.

On campuses across the nation, Greek communities have received mandated action from either their governing councils or their university officials. Many of these universities' Fraternity and Sorority life are similar in structure to our own, such as Florida State University ([FSU Plan](#)), Iowa State University ([ISU Procedures](#)), Louisiana State University ([LSU Plan](#)), University of Michigan ([UM Suspension](#)), and Texas State University ([TSU Plan](#)) among many others. Multiple National / International Fraternities, many of which are on our campus, have created action plans and revised processes, including Alpha Kappa Lambda ([Alpha Kappa Lambda Plan](#)), Beta Theta Pi ([Beta Theta Pi Strategic Plan](#)), Phi Kappa Psi ([Phi Kappa Psi Plan](#)), Sigma Alpha Epsilon ([Sigma Alpha Epsilon Plan](#)), and Sigma Chi ([Sigma Chi Plan](#)). Additionally, multiple states are now considering and discussing strengthened hazing legislation. The North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) has developed an initiative to create changes in the fraternity industry and to reframe priorities ([NIC 2.0](#)).

The call for change is apparent in fraternity and sorority communities across the country, Purdue included. Not only do we need to evolve with the national industry and Headquarters expectations, but we need to evolve to ensure the safety of our members. In Purdue's 2017-18 school year thus far, there have been a total of 30 organizations that have been sanctioned for health and safety violations across all 5 councils, and 2 organizations have been suspended. Universities across the country, the Big Ten, and Purdue are discussing the Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative experience on a more detailed level than ever before. In the spirit of self-governance and with full support from our alumnae, advisers, and the university, the Purdue FSCL community is fully capable of creating long lasting and impactful change.

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## Expectations

The rich tradition and history of Fraternity, Sorority, and Cooperative life at Purdue has enriched the lives of students for over a century. Our advisers, alumnae, and the university value our contributions to the community, and consistently help us to create a better developmental experience for our members. In order to remain prosperous and transparent, the following seven points were identified by the FSCL leadership team, chapters, houses, and Purdue University as necessary and beneficial. Moving forward, these must be implemented and enforced for our community to thrive.

- **No person, member, or guest should be harmed physically, mentally, or emotionally**
  - Eliminating the presence of hard alcohol and hazing activities from chapter and house events and / or facilities is critical in protecting our members' safety. The majority of incidents resulting in injury to our members and / or guests are directly related to alcohol abuse or hazing. The wellbeing of our brothers, sisters, siblings, and guests will continue to be the top priority.
  
- **A reduction in high risk events and activities**
  - We will reduce the number of high risk events, as well as the level of risks present at these events. These events present additional hazards, increasing the chances of a guest getting hurt. Events with water slides, flammable substances, and dangerous structures are all examples of risky activities and environments. The examples given are by no means extensive, but are perhaps most common for the Purdue community.
  - The BYOB movement has been established in national and local policies for decades, and is expected to be operationalized in the Fall of 2018 for the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association. The Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Purdue Cooperative Council are expected to be working towards adopting similar practices and procedures in the future.
  - All organizations are responsible for communicating expectations of health and safety procedures to members and guests.
  
- **If any person needs help, it should be provided without question or fear**
  - Purdue University offers medical amnesty to students seeking medical attention, for both the students calling and the student receiving help, known locally as "MAKING THE CALL". This applies to individual students and events sponsored by a Recognized Student Organization. The University policy was modeled after the Indiana Lifeline Law to help ensure students' safety ([Purdue Amnesty Policy](#)).

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- If a Student Organization is involved in the incident, the willingness to “MAKE THE CALL” will serve as a mitigating circumstance. Therefore, seeking medical help as soon as it is needed will only benefit our FSCL chapters and houses.
- FSCL members and guests should contact emergency medical personnel without hesitation. The amnesty policy applies to all organizations in our community. **Never be afraid to “MAKE THE CALL”, wherever you are!**
  
- **An increase in personal responsibility and accountability**
  - Our years here at Purdue are a time for learning and growth, and we believe the FSCL community enhances that opportunity. This does not excuse reckless behavior. When we joined our organizations, we committed to holding ourselves and each other to a higher standard.
  - Holding our brothers, sisters, and siblings accountable is no easy task, but it is what we have promised to do. This is what results in some of the greatest learning and personal growth, and it is a disservice to ourselves and each other when we fail to do so.
  - Each of the five councils within Purdue FSCL operate under a self-governance model, where peers hold each other accountable at a chapter level. When an individual makes dangerous decisions, it is the responsibility of chapter leadership to hold those individuals accountable. If a member disregards the expectations their organization sets, it is up to the chapter leadership to act accordingly.
  
- **An increased prioritization of student success and community engagement**
  - First and foremost we are here to obtain a valuable education. There will be a renewed emphasis on achieving success in the classroom.
  - It is expected that members are civically engaged through service and supporting philanthropic causes. Our community is devoted to bettering each other, Purdue University, and the greater West Lafayette community.
  
- **An increase in alumni and adviser involvement**
  - In order to successfully execute the necessary changes our community needs, chapters must be supported. Engaging and utilizing alumnae and advisers on a local and national level is critical to the success and longevity of these changes.
  - Volunteers, alumnae, and advisers should serve as a coach, mentor, and problem solver for chapter leadership. Having a support system that is accessible and able to provide valuable oversight for our student leaders is essential as we move forward.
  - Purdue University has dedicated resources towards identifying and providing additional alumni and volunteer support for our organizations.



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- **Organizational environment dictates outcome**
    - As members of Purdue FSCL, we have a great choice on the environments we create and place ourselves in. We must foster a positive, supportive, and inclusive environment for all members and guests. Differences among each other should be celebrated.
    - Having respectful interactions between members and guests in academic and social situations is expected. Organization events should be one of the safest environments on Purdue’s campus for our members and guests.
    - Making healthy choices with ongoing consent from all parties involved is essential.
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## Council Plans

Each of the five councils that make up Purdue FSCL have different challenges. The following points are specific to each council developed by the council’s student leaders. These are meant to help provide each council with the support they need moving forward.

<p><b>Interfraternity Council (IFC):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chapters will promote the health and safety of their members and guests through proper risk management procedures. They will implement the operational change of BYOB and increase personal accountability for members and guests.</li> <li>● IFC will provide a safe and welcoming environment to all new members. All chapters will be expected to submit new member education processes, and increase adviser and volunteer involvement in new member education programs.</li> <li>● IFC will increase the engagement and communication of Advisers and National/International Headquarters stakeholders.</li> <li>● IFC will provide training and education to all chapters on operationalizing FIPG expectations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Multicultural Greek Council (MGC):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MGC will increase connections and utilization of alumnae / alumni resources as advisers and volunteers.</li> <li>● MGC will educate chapters and their members in greater detail on the Health &amp; Safety Policy.</li> <li>● MGC will move towards increasing the number of chapters and members per chapter through strategic sustainable growth plans.</li> </ul>
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## **National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC):**

- NPHC will implement new recruitment methods to increase membership.
- NPHC will increase involvement with other minority organizations and support their goals.
- NPHC will increase campus involvement and make a greater impact on campus.
- NPHC will increase involvement with other councils and build relationships with other councils.
- NPHC will increase camaraderie within the council to make sure that the council is strong rooted.

## **Panhellenic Association (PHA):**

- PHA will implement the operational change of BYOB to increase personal accountability.
- PHA will move towards a more transparent experience, starting with financial information and membership expectations.
- PHA will increase National / International Headquarters stakeholders engagement and communication through regular calls and updates.
- PHA will increase connections and utilization of alumnae / alumni resources provided and assisted by the Purdue Alumni Association.

## **Purdue Cooperative Council (PCC):**

- PCC will continue to promote health and safety amongst our members by putting an emphasis on health and safety rather than rules and regulations.
- PCC will work with the entire FSCL staff and student leadership team to ensure each member has everything they need to be successful and well informed.
- PCC will see that communication within the community is strengthened, ensuring that anyone's questions or concerns about anything will be heard and addressed.
- PCC will increase growing the alumni network to bring more people back to support the community to show current members how Cooperative Housing can positively affect someone's future.
- PCC will remain an affordable living option for students who are academically, philanthropy, and community focused.
- PCC will not risk their community by recruiting anyone who does not fit the above standards and qualities.

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## Oversight

Our goal is to inform our stakeholders in a proactive way to continue our vibrant and sustainable membership. This Path Forward vision our community has does not require new policies to be written, but requires an operational change. These are changes that will protect the self-governance of our individual chapters/houses and governing councils. We have had great success through past years with our self-governance structure, and we are looking to further build upon it. We realize action needs to be taken to ensure the longevity of our community.

There are endless amount of resources here on our campus to assist in these transitions. We will create informed stakeholders, such as Potential New Members and Headquarters, through more intentional marketing and communication. We can adjust to operational changes by engaging chapter and Purdue FSCL advisers. The University provides us with multiple resources that are at our disposal to promote a positive college experience ([Purdue Resources](#)). We have a beneficial and ongoing partnership between our chapters, houses, and the University. The support we receive from these stakeholders is vital to the success of our community, and our individual members. We know the changes we need to make, and we have the resources and support needed to make them. The future success of our community is not determined by our words, but by our actions.

Boiler Up, Hammer Down, Go FSCL!



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