



**Hobart College
Office of Student Activities**

Petition for Greek Status

Purpose of Social Greek Organizations at Hobart:

Social Greek organizations serve a vital role in the mission and purpose of the Colleges by developing its members to be informed, ethical and productive leaders in their community while in college and beyond. Specifically, Greek fraternities and sororities challenge their members to achieve high academic standards, develop strong social and leadership skills, engage in community and philanthropic service, and, most importantly, cultivate the bonds of lifelong sisterhood and brotherhood quintessential of the fraternity experience.

Establishing a new social Greek organization (local or national) requires significant investments on the part of the Colleges' students, faculty, administration and alumni, among others. Each of these groups collect data in efforts to answers the following questions:

1. How might our current Greek community benefit and thrive by adding a new chapter? How might it suffer?
2. Does a sufficient number of interested and committed students exist to charter and sustain a new chapter?
3. Do sufficient campus and community resources such as chapter meeting facilities, housing, local advisors, etc. exist to serve long term needs?

Although these key questions must be answered in the affirmative, many other factors are considered before Greek status is granted to a new organization. Thus, petitioning for local or national Greek status can be a long term process.

The following policies and procedures were established to ensure that student interest groups proposing the establishment of new social Greek fraternities and sororities may do so in a formalized manner. Once approved, the new local chapter becomes part of the Colleges' Greek system enjoying all of the rights and responsibilities of a Greek organization.

The formal process is described in the "New Social Fraternity Approval Guide." Please pay careful attention to requested processes and documents. Full compliance will help facilitate an expedient decision.

Sincerely,

Kimberly H Kochin

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Associate Director/Fraternity Advisor

Hobart College

SOCIAL FRATERNITY APPROVAL GUIDE

Key Terms:

Interest Group: A group of fifteen (15) or more full-time students interested in starting a social Greek fraternity (Hobart) or sorority (William Smith). NOTE: Interest groups must seek national status approval before the College will consider local status.

Colonization: The process during which a new men's or women's national fraternity colony is established. A successful colonization period culminates with the chartering, or full approval of a new chapter.

Expansion/Extension: The process during which a new or returning fraternity or sorority is explored & established.

Re-affiliation: The process during which a previously chartered national Greek organization seeks to re-establish colony or chapter status.

Suspension: When a chapter is no longer approved by the Colleges to be considered active in the Greek system and the loss of its privileges, including college-owned housing, for a given period of time. Chapters are held accountable under the terms of their given suspension unless an appeal is granted.

General Approval Process:

Interest groups petitioning social Greek status including national colonization, expansion or re-affiliation must solicit initial approval in two phases: (suspensions are subjective to terms of their suspension notice and may have been subject to appeals and other considerations

1. Governing Council Approval

Approval requests for national expansion, colonization or reactivation must be attempted up to 2 times through the Interfraternity Council (IFC). This process can take upwards of two years to complete, especially if the first petition is denied.

If approved, the interest group must observe the council's expansion/colonization procedures as defined in their constitution, by-laws or other governing documents.

2. Colleges' Approval

Once approved by the IFC, the petition moves to the Committee on Fraternal Life (COFL) for consideration and approval. COFL consists of representatives from the faculty, administration and students (Greek and non-Greek) charged with general oversight of the Hobart Greek community.

Once approved by COFL, the final expansion decision rests with the Colleges' President or his designee.

a) National Affiliation: A request for College's approval must be filed in the Student Activities Office within 30 days of IFC approval. Written approval from the governing council must accompany the COFL petition for College approval.

b) Local Status: If a petition for national colonization, expansion, or re-affiliation to the governing council is denied twice, the interest group may petition COFL for local social Greek status by submitting the appropriate proposal paperwork (see "required documents" section).

NEW SOCIAL FRATERNITY APPROVAL GUIDE Required Documents

Submission of the following materials constitutes the *minimum* required documents to begin an official Greek expansion petition. Depending on the circumstance, additional documentation may be requested.

1. **Student Organization Registration Form** (including):

- A list of members, officers and CWID#s.
- Copy of the proposed group's constitution and by-laws.

2. **Statement of Internal Approval:**

A signed and dated statement by the group's President must be included which states that no less than 90% of the group's active members have voted agreeing to seek social Greek status (100% is preferred).

3. **Case Statement**

This document must provide sufficient evidence (sound reasoning supported by available data) to answer the following questions:

- a. How might our current Greek community benefit and thrive by adding a new chapter? How might the Greek community suffer?
- b. Does a sufficient number of interested and committed students exist to charter and sustain a new chapter? What student "market" data supports your answer? Provide summary data of any surveys or focus group results.
- c. Do sufficient campus and community resources such as chapter meeting facilities, housing, local alumni and advisors exist to serve long term needs? Which facilities will be used, for what purpose, how often and at what costs (if any)?

4. **Council Confirmation**

If colonization/expansion is approved by the appropriate council, written documentation confirming this must be included. Local Greek status petitions must include written confirmation that approval was denied at least twice.

- If a chapter is under suspension, they must propose to COFL to have the measures of this suspension amended, updated or remain in effect until an appeal is considered/granted. All required documents should be submitted to the Student Activities Office.