

Greek Letter Organizations Policy

E-12, U-12

LONG TITLE	A Policy Respecting the Greek Letter Organizations operating on campus	DATE OF ENACTMENT	22 January 2024
		LAST AMENDED	
REFERENCE No.	E-12, U-12	NEXT REVIEW	01 February 2028
CATEGORY	Political Positions	COMPETENT CHAMBER	Council

PREAMBLE

The Carleton University Students' Association supports student safety and a supportive campus culture and community. CUSA advocates for values, including not discriminating on the basis of sex, gender identity or expression, religion, race, colour, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or political affiliation. CUSA believes that the operations of Greek Letter Organizations in the Ottawa area are incompatible with the functioning of Carleton University.

INTERPRETATION

- 1 This Policy may be called the *Greek Letter Organizations Policy*.
- 2 In this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:
 - "Art Committee" means the Carleton University committee responsible for public art on campus
 - "Campus" means any lands of buildings owned, leased, or rented by Carleton University
 - "Carleton" or "University" or "Carleton University" means the research and teaching higher education institution so recognized by the Carleton University Act, 1952
 - "Certified Club" or "Club" means a student group certified or approved for the academic year by the CUSA Clubs Oversight Commission
 - "Clubs Oversight Commission" is a Committee under the jurisdiction of CUSA Council tasked with Overseeing the CUSA Clubs system
 - "Commercial Activity Review Committee" means the Carleton University committee responsible for reviewing and approving all commercial activity on campus
 - "Graduate Students' Association" means the Carleton University recognized student groups representing graduate students at Carleton University
 - "Greek Letter Organization" means fraternities and sororities established by the use of the Greek alphabet with chapters at multiple institutions of higher education

RATIONALE

3 (1) The Carleton University Students' Association adopts these policy principles because:

(2) Students attest to having been subjected to unsafe situations by a Greek Letter Organization operating in the Ottawa area^{1 2}

(3) Aspects of Greek Letter Organization's operations increase the likelihood of their members experiencing sexual harassment and/or assault, and all students who engage with Greek Letter Organizations activities may be exposing themselves to an "unanticipated vulnerability to sexual victimization"³

POLICY PRINCIPLES

4 (1) The Graduate Students' Association and Carleton University, like CUSA, should not recognize Greek Letter Organizations as a part of their respective Student Groups Accreditation processes⁴

(2) Carleton University should explicitly state in their Recognition of Student Organizations Policy or in a new standalone policy that Fraternities and Sororities will not be recognized, similar to McMaster University, Durham College⁶, and Ontario Tech University⁷

5 Carleton University Leadership should direct the Office of Risk Management and Risk Management Committee that events, activations, or activities proposed by Greek Letter Organizations are inherently high-risk and should not be approved⁸

6 The University and its Commercial Activities Review Committee (CARC) should not accept sponsorship from Greek Letter Organizations or allow Greek Letter Organizations to be present on campus under the sanction or recommendation of CARC⁹

7 The University and its Conference Services should not accept bookings from the Greek Letter Organizations¹⁰

8 (1) The University should enforce the Posting Policy in all its aspects, including

(2) clauses which represent postings are meant to promote campus activities^{x4}

(3) clauses which represent postings posing a threat to health and safety are not permitted¹¹

(4) clauses which represent postings incompatible with the functioning of the university are not permitted¹¹

(5) clauses which represent postings outside of permitted posting areas will be removed or destroyed¹¹

(6) clauses which represent that violation of the Posting Policy may result in a range of consequences including the removal of postings by University staff or disciplinary action against and/or loss of posting privileges by the individual student who posted material¹¹

(7) clauses which represent that a violation of the posting policy by individuals not affiliated with the University may result in criminal charges and/or a trespass from University property¹¹

9 The University should not permit non-posting promotion, such as chalking, painting, or other writing which promoted the interests of Greek Letter Organizations, and should make this clear in either the Posting Policy¹¹ or the Damage and Destruction of Property section of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy¹²

10 The Carleton University Vice President of Student Affairs or their designates should not permit Greek Letter Organizations to book space in the Galleria¹³

11 Carleton University and its agents should apply policies, as applicable, such as the Student Rights & Responsibilities¹², Human Rights Policies & Procedures¹⁴, Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances¹⁵, and/or Sexual Violence Policy¹⁶ to cases where either the alleged accused or accuser are students, regardless of affiliation with Greek Letter Organizations.

12 The Carleton University Art Committee should not accept proposals or donations from Greek Letter Organizations¹⁷

13 (1) Carleton University should, under the On Campus Filming Policy¹⁸ deem filming on campus by fraternity or sorority members a commercial activity, subject to the approval of the Office of Risk Management, due to the recruitment-based nature of the groups and the cost of Greek Letter Organization membership¹⁹

(2) The Carleton University Office of Risk Management should not approve any filming requests submitted by Greek Letter Organizations

14 Carleton University and its agents should apply the policies above as outlined in the scope or procedure of the respective policy regardless of concurrent enforcement processes being conducted by relevant internal, campus, or external authorities.

¹ International Council of Alpha Pi Phi Sorority, "[Alpha Chapter Preliminary Risk Report](#)".

² Greco, Faith & Mendes, Elissa "[Alleged Hazing Within Carleton University Greek letter Sorority](#)." The Charlantan, October 30, 2023

³ Barnes, Melissa L.; Adams-Clark, Alexis; Rosenthal, Marina N.; Smith, Carly P.; and Freyd, Jennifer J. (2021) "Pledged into Harm: Sorority and Fraternity Members Face Increased Risk of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment," Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence: Vol. 6: Iss. 1, Article 9. <https://doi.org/10.23860/dignity.2021.06.01.09>

⁴ Carleton University, Vice President (Students and Enrolment), web: "[Recognition of Student Organizations Policy](#)"

⁵ McMaster University, "[Policy on Fraternities, Sororities, And Honour Societies](#)"

⁶ Durham College, "[Recognition of Student Organizations](#)"

⁷ Ontario Tech University, "[Policy on the Recognition of Student Organizations](#)"

⁸ Carleton University, Office of the President, web: "[Risk Management Policy](#)"

- ⁹ Carleton University, Office of Risk Management, web: “[Commercial and Supplemental Revenue Generating Activities Policy](#)”
- ¹⁰ Carleton University, Housing and Residence Life Services, web: “[Conference Services Space Booking Policy](#)”
- ¹¹ Carleton University, University Communications, web: “[Posting Policy](#)”
- ¹² Carleton University, Office of the Vice President - Students and Enrolment (SE), web: “[Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)”
- ¹³ Carleton University, Office of the Vice President (Students and Enrolment), web: “[Galleria Space Booking Policy](#)”
- ¹⁴ Carleton University Board of Governors, web: “[Human Rights Policies & Procedures](#)”
- ¹⁵ Carleton University, “[Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or other Extenuating Circumstances](#)”
- ¹⁶ Carleton University, Office of the Vice President (Students and Enrolment), web: “[Sexual Violence Policy](#)”
- ¹⁷ Carleton University, Office of the Vice President (Finance and Administration), web: “[Public Art Policy](#)”
- ¹⁸ Carleton University, Vice President (Finance and Administration), web: “[On Campus Filming Policy](#)”
- ¹⁹ Sportelli, Natalie. “[Buying Into Greek Life: Is it Worth it?](#)” Forbes, June 19, 2014