

**DESCRIPTION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION AND COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS/AFFILIATES**

May, 2005

\* Fraternity, Inc. is a non-profit corporation. It is incorporated under the laws of the State of \*. Its offices are located in [City, State].<sup>1</sup>

\* as a non-profit corporation for the purposes of fostering fraternity, and as an educational and service resource for collegiate chapters of \*, and for persons associated with those chapters. \* Fraternity, Inc. has a limited staff. It has limited funding sources which necessarily limit the size of its staff.

\* Fraternity, Inc. maintains and processes membership and other records for collegiate chapters associated with it. These chapters are located in Canada and throughout the United States. These chapters have in excess of \* undergraduate members.

\* Fraternity, Inc. also serves as an educational resource and service organization for collegiate [and alumni/alumnae] chapters, members associated with those chapters, and for local alumni who volunteer their time on an independent basis to assist a collegiate chapter and its associated collegiate members. \* Fraternity, Inc. provides education through conferences, written materials, and periodic consultant visits to collegiate chapters. Consultant visits result in advisory recommendations for chapter operations. \* Fraternity, Inc. strives through these educational efforts to enhance life skills, leadership skills and ethical traits for those who take advantage of these educational opportunities, and to assist through education and consultant recommendations the success of chapters associated with it.

No chapter of \* and no member of any chapter of \* is an agent of \* Fraternity, Inc. No chapter and no member of any chapter has been appointed as an agent of \* Fraternity, Inc. \*

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<sup>1</sup> If the national organization is not an incorporated entity, but a national, unincorporated association, "association" can be substituted in place of "corporation" and the "Inc." designations deleted.

Fraternity, Inc. is not involved in the day-to-day activities of a chapter. \* Fraternity, Inc. does not and can not control or supervise the day to day operations or activities of a chapter.

Each collegiate chapter of \* Fraternity, Inc. is a self-governing, financially self-sufficient association comprised of students of the institution at which they are enrolled. [Each alumni chapter of \* Fraternity, Inc. is a self-governing, financially self-sufficient association comprised of alumni members residing in a specific geographic location.] Under the [Constitution and General Statutes of \* Fraternity, Inc. – insert appropriate title of governing documents], each collegiate chapter of \* Fraternity, Inc. selects and initiates its own members, elects its own officers, establishes its own rules, operates and determines its methods of operation, and governs its own affairs, subject only to those rules and operations being in harmony with the policies, [Constitution and General Statutes of \* Fraternity, Inc. – insert appropriate title of governing documents] of \* Fraternity, Inc. The autonomy of a collegiate chapter in organizing, determining and conducting its own operations through a democracy is part of an educational process which association with the chapter adds to collegiate life and to the development and refining of life skills.

If a collegiate chapter's operations are not in harmony with the policies, [Constitution and General Statutes of \* Fraternity, Inc. – insert appropriate title of governing documents], \* Fraternity, Inc. has the right after the fact to determine whether that chapter will continue to be recognized by \* Fraternity, Inc. as a chapter associated with it. In some situations, after an action by a chapter has occurred that is not in harmony with the policies, [Constitution and General Statutes of \* Fraternity, Inc. – insert appropriate title of governing documents], a probationary status may be implemented for the chapter by \* Fraternity, Inc. In probationary situations, the chapter continues to be a self-governing, financially self-sufficient association of

collegiate students. If a chapter ceases to be recognized by \* Fraternity as a chapter associated with it, but that group of collegiate students nonetheless continues its operations, they do so without any affiliation with \* Fraternity.

\* Fraternity, Inc. does not have the right to suspend or affect the membership status of a collegiate student associated with a chapter other than in those situations and in accordance with the procedures specifically set forth in the [Constitution and General Statutes of] \* Fraternity, Inc.

Note: This is only a suggested document in response to a survey undertaken by the FIPG Legal Affairs Committee to determine issues and needs of member organizations. Your organization may use it, amend it, or disregard it, though the committee does recommend that each inter/national Greek organization have documentation that sets out the relationship between the inter/national, local chapters and individual members. It must be emphasized that these are merely suggestions and do not constitute legal advice. Any use of this document should be undertaken only after consultation with legal counsel. It is possible that a recommended provision may not be effective in a given state.

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