**Oregon State University**

**“Go Beavs! Go Greek!” Fraternity & Sorority Life 101**

**Introduction:**

* Welcome to the Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life Webinar. My name is Jessica Tallant and I am the Parent & Family Programs Coordinator in New Student Programs & Family Outreach. This presentation will provide an overview of our Greek Community at Oregon State and during this webinar I’ll cover how to join as well as some frequently asked questions.
* **(SLIDE)** For a wealth of other resources, you can visit the Center for Fraternity & Sorority life website at [oregonstate.edu/cfsl](http://www.uiowafsl.com) to view frequently asked questions, a community calendar, and to see chapter profiles for each of our groups.
* On the CFSL homepage, you’ll find a link to the copy of the publication for the community that includes the dates for recruitment and membership intake, financial information, and more.

**Facts and History:**

* **(SLIDE)** Fraternity & Sorority Life has a rich legacy at OSU. The community has been established for over 136 years as the first Greek-lettered Organization, Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, was established in 1882. Unfortunately, ATO only lasted 6 months due to the isolated nature of OSU during that time. Local fraternities and sororities existed in the early days of campus, but in 1915, Alpha Chi Omega sorority became the first national sorority on campus, which is still on campus today. During the same year, Sigma Alpha Epsilon & Kappa Sigma fraternities joined OSU as well.
* **(SLIDE)** Today, 17% of the total undergraduate student body are Fraternity & Sorority members, which comes out to over 3,200 members. We currently have 49 chapters and our community grows more each year.

**IFC Facts:**

* **(SLIDE)** Now I will introduce each community at OSU, which are structured as governing councils. Each of the chapters is a member of a governing body, which is a peer-elected executive council of members of the community. First, I’ll start with the Interfraternity Council.
* **(SLIDE)** IFC is a fraternity-only governing body for the traditionally housed fraternities on campus.
* OSU has 23 IFC chapters and all recognized chapters in good standing are listed on the website, under chapter profiles.
* 18 of our 23 chapters have chapter houses so know there are unhoused options for students as well. All fraternities with a house have a live-in adviser called a House Director or Resident Advisor.
* The Largest IFC Chapter is 155, Smallest Chapter 6, with an Average size of 62 men per chapter.

**UGC Facts:**

* **(SLIDE)** The Unified Greek Council serves members of multicultural fraternities and sororities, including LatinX, Asian interest, and Native American-based chapters.
* While each UGC group has an affinity that is connected to their founding, each also are strongly connect to a multicultural identity. We have currently:
  + 3 Latino/a chapters
  + 2 South Asian interest chapters AND
  + 1 Native American sorority
* Know that chapter sizes are typically smaller but our groups are always looking to grow.
* UGC chapters are unhoused, but use the cultural resource centers on campus as a home base.
* You don’t have to identify with a certain ethnic or racial group to join one of these chapters, the UGC community is inclusive and all are welcome to explore what they have to offer.

**NPHC Facts:**

* **(SLIDE)** The National Pan-Hellenic Council, or Divine 9, encompasses the historically African-American fraternities and sororities. Both fraternities and sororities make up the membership of NPHC.
* There are a total of 4 NPHC chapters that currently have undergraduate members, including:
  + 1 NPPC Fraternity – Phi Beta Sigma
  + 3 NPHC Sororities – Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, & Zeta Phi Beta
  + We have 4 additional chapters that have charters at OSU, but don’t currently have undergraduate members. There are still opportunities to join these inactive chapters, if you have questions refer to the information on our website.
* None of the NPHC chapters have houses, but often meet in the Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center here on campus.
* Chapter sizes for NPHC chapters are typically smaller, but chapters are always eager to grow and are still very active on campus.
* Like UGC, you don’t have to be African-American to join NPHC. NPHC chapters are inclusive and welcoming to people of all backgrounds.

**PHC Facts:**

* **(SLIDE)** PHC is a sorority-only governing council for our traditionally housed sororities on campus
* There are 12 PHC chapters, including 1 Associate Member – Sigma Alpha – which is our agriculturally-based professional sorority. Sigma Alpha will recruiting new members during the fall quarter but not during formal recruitment.
* 11 of our 12 chapters have houses around campus. All of those with chapter structures have House Directors that live in the chapter to help the women throughout the academic year.
* Our Largest sorority 146, smallest sorority 47, and average chapter size is 133 women per chapter.

**CGC Facts:**

* **(SLIDE)** Last, I’m going to share information with you about the Collective Greek Council, which is a special and unique element of our OSU community. CGC chapters are groups that have various academic or other membership interest bases.
* We currently have 4 CGC chapters that each have their own distinct identity.
  + 1 engineering based sorority
  + 1 design interest sorority
  + 1 science based sorority
  + 1 Fraternity for progressive men, regardless of sexual orientation
* Two of these organizations are local chapters and were founded at OSU and remain the only chapter of their organization.
* The Largest Chapter has 91 members, Smallest Chapter 11, average size 52 members per chapter
* None of the CGC chapters have chapter facilities, but are strongly connected to colleges and departments and often meet in the buildings where members have the majority of their classes, which can vary from chapter to chapter.

**(SLIDE) Values:**

## **Scholarship:**

### **(SLIDE)** Since academics are the primary reason students attend Oregon State, it is very important to our chapters. Each chapter has strict GPA requirements to join, as well as to remain in good standing as a member.

* Chapters provide study tables, tutors and scholarships to help members be successful in the classroom. As well, OSU has several Greek honor societies for members with high commitment to scholastics. After all, students are here to get an education, first and foremost.

### National statistics show that fraternity and sorority members have a higher rate of graduation as compared to those students who are not involved.

## **Philanthropy &** **Community Service:**

### **(SLIDE)** Every chapter was founded on principals of service to others and focuses on giving back to the community.

### Our organizations give either time or money to a national philanthropy or community service project. Examples are the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence in Corvallis, American Cancer Society and Make-a-Wish Foundation.

* In 2017-2018, Greeks contributed over 68,000 hours of service and donated over $315,000 to charity!

## **Leadership:**

### **(SLIDE)** The F/S community provides plenty of opportunities to develop leadership skills. Within a chapter there are a number of elected officer positions that members hold, as well as opportunities to get involved as a new member.

### You can also become a leader within the governing bodies of the F/S Community be a leader in another campus organization.

### We do know that being Greek isn’t for everyone, so if that’s true for your student, then we urge all students to get involved with something on campus. There are over 400 student organizations at Oregon State and there are plenty of opportunities to excel. We always encourage students to pick at least one to get involved with!

* **QUESTION:** *Did you know that tons of famous athletes, celebrities, and world leaders are F/S members?*
* **(SLIDE)** People like Condoleezza Rice, Martin Luther King Jr, and Carrie Underwood are all members of fraternities and sororities. Our very own OSU celebrities like Ken Austin, Terry Baker & Mercedes Bates (pause) more widely known as Betty Crocker are Greek as well.

## 

## **Brotherhood/Sisterhood/Friendship:**

### **(SLIDE)** Friendship is by far the biggest cornerstone of Greek organizations. Students establish a very active life outside of the classroom, which makes their college career so much more rewarding.

### Working with people in different chapters and also the various staff within the university also improves professional relationship skills.

* There are many events in which Fraternity & Sorority members participate together, which helps foster strong relationships, as well as a good time, including Family & Parent Weekends, Leadership Retreats, Greek Week, Formals, Yard Shows, Competitions and Intramurals. F/S members can be found at OSU Sporting Events, and are active participants every year in campus-wide programs.

# **Inclusivity:**

## **(SLIDE)** Our final, and perhaps most important community value, is Inclusivity. While our chapters do use a mutual selection process to extend and accept membership, we do strive to create a welcoming and safe environment for all students. We work to eliminate prejudices and foster an inclusive environment by promoting the fair treatment of all members, and work to create opportunities for students of all backgrounds and identities to join our community.

## This is visible in the programs our chapters host, the partnerships they create throughout campus and how we work together collaboratively.

# **Misconceptions and Myths:**

## **(SLIDE)** Now, we know that there are plenty of misconceptions about Fraternity & Sorority Life that can be found in popular media or pop culture today. We are not saying that we are perfect; however we hope that the Oregon State students are working hard to fight many of these stereotypes.

### Most of the information pertaining to F/S life found in movies such as *House Bunny,* *Animal House, or Neighbors,* is not an accurate picture of being Greek. These movies and TV shows tend to impart a much-skewed vision of how we are today.

* **We hope that you will urge your student to check out the chapters for yourself and make their own decision about joining.**

# **Now I’ll shift to give an overview of Recruitment & Intake…How can your student join our community at Oregon State?**

## **IFC Men’s Process:**

## **(SLIDE)** If your child is interested in joining one of our 23 IFC chapters, then I encourage you to look through the information provided on our website and in the publication you can find on the homepage (oregonstate.edu/cfsl). This has information on all chapters, as well as contact information for each individual recruitment chair.

## You can join chapters through a couple of methods:

## Summer Recruitment - Many chapters will have recruitment events throughout the summer and may be contacting you to attend their various informal events. These may consist of attending a BBQ in your hometown, dinner with a recruitment chair or a weekend at the lake. You can choose to meet with 1 chapter or 10. Know that men can accept a bid from a chapter at any time, and it is not uncommon to be offered a bid over the summer. It is up to each individual whether or not they would like to wait to join until fall recruitment.

## 

## 2. **(SLIDE)** The other option is the IFC Fall Recruitment Process that will occur September 19 – September 29, during the first week of classes. This is your chance to get to visit all 23 chapters and then narrow down the chapters that he wishes to visit again. This process is FREE and you can sign-up today. Please check out the recruitment publication and visit our website to register.

## Outside of Fall Recruitment, IFC chapters continue to hold informal recruitment events throughout the year.

* **UGC & NPHC Intake process:**

**(SLIDE)** Becoming involved in one of our Unified Greek Council (UGC) Chapters or National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) groups is slightly different and our process is called Membership Intake. If your student is interested in joining a UGC or NPHC sorority or fraternity on campus, the best way to get involved would be to attend as many council sponsored programs as they can.

Each individual UGC and NPHC organization also hosts various programs and activities on campus. By attending these programs and activities students can introduce themselves to members of the fraternity or sorority that they’re interested in and let them know that they would like to learn more about their organization.

Another good way to learn more about the UGC and NPHC organizations would be to consult the internet. There is a wealth of knowledge on the Internet about fraternities and sororities. All UGC and NPHC organizations have a national website where you can learn tons of information on each organization as a whole.

**(SLIDE)** The NPHC will host their “Divine 9 Informational” program on Thursday, September 27 at the Memorial Union. This is a FREE program and is an opportunity for your student to hear about each NPHC fraternity and sorority, as well as ask questions about the individual chapters.

**(SLIDE)** Lastly, UGC is also having a Meet & Greet on Friday, September 29 at the McNary Courtyard outside McNary Dining Center. We’ll be playing field games and having a BBQ. We cannot wait to meet your students there!

* **CGC Recruitment and Membership Intake Process:**

Like UGC & NPHC, CGC will be hosting a Meet and Greet and Informational on Wednesday, September 19 from 2-4pm in the Student Experience Center Lobby. This is a great chance to meet our chapters and learn more about how to join. Each chapter will promote events as the fall term begins so students should look out for Facebook posts, announcements in their classes, and see your email for updates about when these will occur. Generally, CGC chapters will have one to two weeks of events then will extend invitations for membership before beginning the new member process.

## **PHC Women’s Recruitment Process:**

**(SLIDE)** If your student is interested in joining one of our 12 PHC sororities on campus, we encourage them to sign up and participate in Fall Formal Recruitment.

Formal Recruitment, formerly known as ‘Rush’, will take place this fall, beginning on Wednesday, September 19 with Prospective New Member Orientation. Events will begin Friday, September 22 and end Saturday, September 29 with Bid Day.

Keep in mind that we utilize the first week of school and the first weekend does include a home football game. The publication has a schedule at a glance and it’s on the website as well so you know what to expect.

Fall Formal Recruitment is the only opportunity to check out the PHC chapters. PHC utilizes a “mutual selection process”, this means your student will narrow down their choices, as the chapters are also narrowing down the women they would like to invite back. Again…this is the ONLY opportunity to see ALL chapters. Many of our chapters will be full following fall recruitment for the rest of the academic year.

**(SLIDE)** Your student can sign up for Fall Formal Recruitment online using a credit card at any time until, September 18 at 11:59pm for $45. But, don’t delay! Registration fees will go up to $60 on September 1.

Our costs are based on the supplies required to run the process and rental of spaces and rooms on campus. Women participating will also receive a booklet that describes the process and a nametag.

**Final Thoughts:**

* **(SLIDE)** Before putting the dates of the different recruitment & membership intake processes on the screen, I want to draw your attention to our annual event during Welcome Week: the Go Beavs! Go Greek! BBQ. This is for any students that are interested in joining one of our 49 groups here at OSU. This is your student’s chance to meet the fraternity and sorority community and eat some FREE FOOD!
  + The BBQ will be on Monday, September 17 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm on campus
  + We encourage all students to attend and bring a friend!

**Questions and Answer Session:**

* **(SLIDE)** Again, all of the dates for the different council recruitment processes are on this slide. More info on each of them is located in the online at oregonstate.edu/cfsl.
* **(SLIDE)** Stay updated on everything Fraternity & Sorority Life…check us out on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram!
* **(SLIDE)** If you have any question please contact us at the Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life at [cfsl@oregonstate.edu](mailto:cfsl@oregonstate.edu) or (541) 737-5432
* We can’t wait to get to know your student! Thank you for joining us today, and Go Beavs!