

GRADUATE CHAPTER SUPPORT PLAN

PURPOSE

After surveying many existing graduate chapters and taking into account their diverse makeup, it is not feasible to identify a single purpose for a Graduate Chapter. We identify the following as purposes of a graduate chapter, listed in priority order:

1. To connect brothers that live in a geographic region living out “not for college days alone”
2. To welcome recent graduate or brothers moving to a new city
3. To service and provide support to a nearby undergraduate chapter
4. To give back to the local community

The purpose of a graduate chapter will be reiterated to all graduate chapters, with the expectation that those highest on the priority list must be met before focusing on others farther down the list. Similar to new colonies, new graduate chapters will be focused primarily on those highest priorities.

Programming Frequency

The Bylaw requirement for recognition as an active graduate chapter is for graduate chapters to host or sponsor 2 events a year.

The Fraternity’s recommendation moving forward is that graduate chapters host at least 4 events, but prefer they organize 6-10 events a calendar year.

The types of events graduate chapters plan and execute are numerous. Each host metropolitan area or region will have something different to offer brothers. It is important that graduate chapters accommodate brothers with a variety of events and not do the same event at the same location repeatedly. There should be a balance between social events and hosting family and philanthropic events. A revised listing for programming/event ideas will be provided.

SUPPORT

Proficiency Recognition

Starting in 2018, graduate chapters will have the opportunity to achieve a ‘certificate of recognition.’ The purpose of this acknowledgement is to highlight a graduate chapter’s proficiency in cultivating the spirit of brotherhood among brothers in their respective area.

The requirements to earn the proficiency recognition are:

- ◇ Host at least 4 graduate chapter events, event information should be shared with staff to post on Fraternity’s calendar
- ◇ Have at least 3 graduate brothers on the graduate chapter’s leadership team, update headquarters staff of changes or additions of the leadership team
- ◇ Complete and submit an application for the Brightman Award for Graduate Chapters
- ◇ Provide examples of graduate brother outreach

Leadership

Graduate chapters have the autonomy to have whomever and how many brothers they wish to serve as a graduate chapter leader. We are recommending graduate chapters have at least three graduate brothers on their leadership team, one President and two Vice-Presidents (one may serve as Treasurer when applicable). Other brothers on the leadership team will be listed as “planning members.”

Finances / Dues Collection

We suggest graduate chapters use Legacy Financial for the use of paying events. This platform will allow graduate chapter leaders to set up an online payment and RSVP system.

Communications

The Fraternity will take more of a role in event communications. If a graduate chapter does not use MailChimp or a similar platform, the Headquarters staff will take up the role of inviting and informing brothers of graduate chapter events.

There will be three pieces to this mass communication 1) initial invitation 2) not too late to RSVP and 3) day before reminder. A fourth email will be sent to those that already expressed interest in the event.

New Graduate Chapters

New graduate chapters will be given a welcome kit. This kit will include a list of graduate brothers from our database living in their respective area, resources and best practices, a FIJI banner flag, a table top flag, and an easy to use template for making and printing Fiji name tags.

Role of the Section Chief

Section Chiefs should be connected to graduate chapters in their sections or in nearby cities (which tend to serve as feeders for undergraduate support). Some are active in a local graduate chapter and provide updates in their reports.

Section Chiefs will be supplied with a list of graduate chapter leadership information. Additional information on graduate chapters will be provided by SCEC during the onboarding for new section chiefs.

The Section Chief Executive Committee will discuss role of section chief in graduate chapters at their next SCEC meeting in the fall 2018.

COLLABORATION

Communication with Grad Chapter Leaders

Staff will send out at least 6 all graduate chapter leader updates a year. Graduate chapters will be invited to participate in two virtual webinars or townhalls a year.