



2017 Adopted NPC Legislation

Recolonization (1992, 2017) – POLICY

Recolonization is the process by which an NPC member organization returns to a host institution where it previously had an installed chapter. The invitation to recolonize comes from the College Panhellenic Council or the host institution.

The approval of the College Panhellenic Council or host institution is required for the recolonization of a chapter, regardless of the length of time a charter has been dormant.

Rationale: Adds a definition of “recolonization,” which is not fully explained in the Manual of Information and clarifies that recolonization must be approved by the College Panhellenic Council or host institution.

Recolonization Notification (2003, 2017) – POLICY

National Panhellenic Conference member organizations will notify the NPC Extension Committee promptly when a defined plan for ~~re-establishment or~~ recolonization is submitted to and, if required, approved by the College Panhellenic Council or ~~campus-~~host institution.

Rationale: The proposal reflects current practice. The NPC Extension Committee is rarely notified when an NPC organization is re-establishing a chapter on a campus and re-establishment does not require a vote of the College Panhellenic Council. Therefore, the number of chapter re-establishments is a difficult metric to track and is not currently used for any purpose. The amendment also clears up confusion about the policy itself. The title is “recolonization notification,” yet it addresses re-establishment. This change will focus the policy specifically on notification of chapter recolonizations by NPC member organizations.



Stacking (2012, 2014, 2015, 2017) – POLICY

National Panhellenic Conference member organizations will not enter into stacking agreements with College Panhellenic Councils or host institutions. Stacking agreements have been used to invite two or more NPC member organizations to colonize on a campus over a defined time period during a single extension process. The National Panhellenic Conference recognizes that stacking NPC organizations in an extension process may be considered in rare situations if the community can provide the necessary data to establish that there is enough interest and projected increase in university undergraduate women to continue to grow the Panhellenic community in the next two (2) to four (4) years. Stacking must be approved through a vote of the College Panhellenic Council per the recommendation of the Exploratory Committee with the adoption of the following motions: That the [name of the institution] College Panhellenic opens for extension adding a new NPC organization. That the [name of the institution] College Panhellenic also enter into a stacking agreement with a second NPC organization. The terms of the stacking agreement will be: [Name of organization] will be invited to colonize no sooner than [date] and no later than [date], and upon the review and vote of the College Panhellenic Council confirming that the Panhellenic is in the position to add another NPC organization to the College Panhellenic community at that time. The first organization to colonize should be given at least two (2) primary recruitments to stabilize before the stacked organization is allowed to colonize. The stacking agreement will be invalid if it exceeds four (4) years. The agreement should not include more than one (1) NPC member organization.

Proviso: Agreements adopted prior to the 2015 stacking policy change will remain in effect per the terms of the agreements. Agreements adopted after the 2015 stacking policy change will continue to be subject to the four-year expiration date for the agreements. Agreements adopted after Oct. 28, 2017, are subject to the terms of this legislation. The NPC Extension Committee will work directly with campuses on a case-by-case basis for long-term extension and growth plans as needed.

Rationale: The National Panhellenic Conference recognizes that the number of College Panhellenic Councils choosing to stack organizations in an extension process has decreased in each of the past four years, and the number of campuses opening for extension has decreased in each of the past two years. (Source: Extension Committee data.) The NPC Extension Committee does not currently track the status of stacking agreements; however, anecdotal evidence suggests that College Panhellenic Councils often choose not to affirm and implement stacking agreements in favor of delaying or extending the colonization timeline of the stacked NPC organization. Furthermore, current and future undergraduate female enrollment trends indicate a short-term plateau and a longer-term decline in the number of high school graduates. (Source: “Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates, Ninth Edition,” Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, December 2016.)



Quota Addition Procedures (2007, 2017) – POLICY

Quota additions shall be placed by the release figure specialist in collaboration with the fraternity/sorority advisor in a manner that is optimal for the system and the potential new members.

In placing quota additions, the release figure specialist and the fraternity/sorority advisor shall consider and balance preference for chapters with smaller total membership, for placing potential new members with chapters with lower relative recruiting strength, for potential new members' first choice, for even distribution of potential new members and for potential new member position on a chapter's bid list. College Panhellenics that do not use the Release Figure Methodology (RFM) should consult with the area advisor when placing quota additions.

The quota addition procedure shall never include a woman who has failed to accept or attend any membership recruitment event for which there was room in her membership recruitment schedule (with a fully structured or partially structured recruitment), or has failed to list on her membership recruitment acceptance binding agreement (MRABA) all sorority chapters appearing on her preference schedule.

Rationale: This amendment is intended to clarify the process and appropriate NPC partner for College Panhellenics not using RFM. These Panhellenics cannot consult with an RFM specialist to place quota additions.



Chapter Costs (1963, 2017) – BEST PRACTICE

Recommendation is to list only the average cost of sorority membership in College Panhellenic booklets rather than comparative fees, because the variance in items included does not provide accurate information, and the difference in total fees is almost inconsequential. The College Panhellenic may vote to allow chapters to share detailed financial information (member dues, chapter fees and assessments, etc.) with the potential new members during a specified round of recruitment. Each chapter will share the financial information in a brief group presentation and individual conversations. A potential new member may leave each chapter's event with a single sheet of paper containing the chapter's dues and fees information using the approved Panhellenic template. See the Resource Information section of the Manual of Information for implementation guidelines.*

*Please note, the "approved Panhellenic template" and additional information provided in the Manual of Information have not yet been released. They are expected to be available in January 2018.

Rationale: The proposal reflects the need to provide increased financial transparency to potential new members prior to their becoming members of a sorority. Member retention continues to concern member organizations, and in some cases can be attributed to a lack of understanding of financial obligations prior to joining a sorority. By providing accurate financial information to the potential new member, she is better able to make an educated decision prior to signing the MRABA.



Continuous Open Bidding – BEST PRACTICE

COB is not intended to precede or take the place of the primary membership recruitment period, nor should there be a COB process prior to the start of fall primary membership recruitment. Likewise, no COB process should occur during the period at the start of the term in which primary recruitment does not take place while rosters are confirmed for the reset of total (not to exceed seven days).

The purpose of COB is to enable those chapters that did not pledge to quota or pledged quota but did not reach total, to pledge additional new members immediately following the primary membership recruitment period. The intent of COB is to provide maximum opportunities for membership to the greatest number of chapters possible.

On campuses with deferred (second-term) membership recruitment, any COB prior to the scheduled membership recruitment period should be limited to upperclass and transfer women. Freshmen women should not attend these recruitment functions. COB would not be open to freshmen women until after the primary membership recruitment period, as provided for in Unanimous Agreement III. The Panhellenic Compact.

Rationale: This amendment to the best practice was proposed to address a problem in which chapters, even those typically at or above median chapter size on their campus, use the window of time prior to total being reset to conduct COB. The concern is that this impacts parity on the campus and results in chapters that would not typically need to COB doing so before total is reset, further widening the gap in chapter size.

The intended outcome of this amendment is to clarify that in a typical College Panhellenic, total should be confirmed for that term prior to chapters beginning COB. The time allowed for total to be reset in the term in which primary recruitment does not occur is intended to be used for chapters to clarify rosters and submit them. It is not intended to be a free-for-all week in which all chapters COB. This amendment clarifies the intent and timing of COB relative to total being reset.

The best practice does not change Unanimous Agreement VI. 2. B., which confirms every chapter's right to use continuous open bidding (COB) to reach quota or its total allowable chapter size during the regular school year as defined by the school calendar. However, it does provide parameters that the best practice is to wait the few days needed to confirm rosters and reset total before beginning COB.