



UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
VIRGINIA

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FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

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The Inter-Sorority Council  
at the University of Virginia  
Extension Information  
Packet

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## Executive Summary and Overview

Founded by Thomas Jefferson in 1819, the University of Virginia is a major, comprehensive, student-centered university. In August 2009, *US News & World Report* recognized the University as the nation's number 2 public university and 24<sup>th</sup> (tied with UCLA) among 248 national universities. Dedicated to excellence and guided by Jefferson's ideal for creating engaged citizen leaders, the University strives to provide a creative, nurturing campus environment where students can become the best individuals possible, learn from the best and brightest faculty, and make a positive difference in the community, state, and world.

### The Fraternity & Sorority Community

The fraternity and sorority community at U. Va. is one of the largest and most vibrant in the region. It consists of four governing councils: the Inter-fraternity Council (IFC), the Inter-sorority Council (ISC), the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). Approximately 30 percent of the undergraduate student body is affiliated with one of the 57 Greek-letter organizations at the University.

The fraternity and sorority community at U. Va. is one of excellence - in the classroom, in extracurricular achievement, and in contributions to the larger U. Va. and Charlottesville communities. In the 2008 – 2009 academic year, fraternities and sororities reported completing over 30,000 hours of community-based service and raising over \$150,000 for philanthropic and charitable causes. Further, the fraternity and sorority community has consistently excelled in the academic arena. Most notably, the 15 NPC sororities achieved an average grade point of 3.273 in the spring semester 2009. Fraternity and sorority members at U. Va. enjoy participation in a wide variety of campus activities, reside in state-of-the-art living/learning facilities, and assume positions of leadership in a variety of campus organizations and honorary societies.

The Office of the Dean of Students/ Fraternity & Sorority Life was founded in 2001 by an initiative of the Board of Visitors to educate and support our students in recognized chapters as

they shape organizations promoting principles of scholarship, leadership, service, diversity, and honor. The office is home to two full-time professional staff members and a graduate assistant who are committed to strengthening student self-governance and leadership on the individual chapter and governing council levels. The office team also serves as the University liaison to alumnae, alumni and chapter headquarters' staff.

### **Inter-Sorority Council at the University of Virginia**

The first female fraternal organization began at U. Va. in 1927; today the Inter-Sorority Council governs 15 NPC chapters and over 1,800 women, making it the largest women's organization of on Grounds. Sorority women are extremely active within the UVA community and many hold leadership positions in many of U. Va.'s most visible organizations. Many ISC women are also actively involved in athletic organizations, including varsity, club, and intramural sports. The women of the ISC continually outperform their female non-Greek counterparts in the area of academics. The Greek female GPA is consistently higher than the non-Greek female GPA at U.Va.

### **Extension**

The Inter-Sorority Council's Committee on Extension has, upon careful review and great consideration, overwhelmingly approved a resolution in support of extension. This resolution carefully lays out the case for extension at the University, and takes into account the following:

- **Size of Current ISC Groups.** Due to the continued growth of the community, many of sorority chapters have grown a size that has been deemed unmanageably large. While chapter total is set at 107, the average chapter size following formal recruitment in January is 139 members. The current size of chapters has created a burden for organizations as current facilities are unable to accommodate such large numbers. For example, chapters cannot accommodate their entire membership during either semester for chapter meetings within their current facilities; some are forced to hold meal

functions in rotating shifts and a smaller percentage of women have the experience of living in sorority housing.

- **A Significant Number of Women are Unable to Affiliate with Existing Chapters.** Since 2005 there has been an increase in interest among women to participate in the formal recruitment process. Most recently, in 2008 and 2009, there was a significant number of women (57 and 51, respectively) who completed the entire recruitment process and were not placed in an ISC sorority. Such statistics illustrate the growing number of women who desire to join a sorority who are currently not afforded the opportunity. (A detailed report of recruitment statistics is available on page 9 of this packet).
- **An Opportunity Exists for a Local Sorority to Enter the Community.** Established in 2006, Sigma Delta is a local sorority at the University that has gained “Associate Member” status in the Inter-Sorority Council. At present, the group boasts over 40 women who are seeking affiliation with a(n) inter/national organization. As a local organization, the group has consistently generated interest in a diverse group of women, many of whom did not participate in the formal recruitment process.
- **An Ability to Support the Addition of new NPC Chapters.** Recognizing that it is imperative to meet the specific needs of a new colony, the ISC is prepared to develop a plan that will allow a new NPC group to successfully join the fraternity and sorority community. While specific plans for support will need to be developed in partnership with a new colony, the ISC is positioned to assist a new colony with marketing all colonization efforts to the greater University community. Likewise, the ISC and Fraternity and Sorority Life Office will prepare resources, materials, and informational training to cover specific University and ISC expectations. Further, all 15 NPC groups will be highly encouraged to partner with and promote a new colony.
- **Growth of the University.** The University of Virginia has experienced a growth of over 24% in their undergraduate population over the past 10 years. Additionally the projected

enrollment rates set by the university in 2008 have been significantly lower than the actual enrollment rates for the last two academic years.

## Housing

- **Current Housing Arrangements**

- ISC sororities at Virginia are housed off-Grounds and independently owned. While many facilities are owned by individual sorority/alumnae house corporations, some chapter facilities are owned and managed by the house corporation of the respective national organization. Chapter members sign leases to live in their respective sorority house on an annual (academic-year) basis; most leases are for 9 or 12 months. Lease agreements are specific to each sorority and often include meal plans in addition to the rent to reside in the facility.
- Current facilities house an average of 22 women each with an occupancy range of 15-33 women.
- Cost estimates for the purchase of existing sorority housing facilities would range from approximately \$700,000 to over \$1,000,000. The first new fraternity house at Virginia in over 50 years broke ground in fall 2009; and, in so doing, will create potential opportunities for movement of chapter facilities within our community. It is important to note that there is limited land that would allow for the construction of a new sorority house. Additionally new construction would be compounded by architectural and historical specifications mandated by the City of Charlottesville. While housing would not be required of a new group, the construction of such facilities would be necessary to the long term health and viability of a new sorority chapter.

# University Enrollment Data

Total Undergraduate Enrollment for 2009: 13,762<sup>1</sup>

## Undergraduate Demographics:

- Female: 56%
- Male: 44%
- In-State: 68.5%
- Out-of-State: 31.5%
- Living in University Housing: 46%
- Retention of 1<sup>st</sup> year students: 97%

## Projected Enrollment (total undergraduate population) for 2010-2013

Year	Projected Enrollment
2010	13,700
2011	13,850
2012	13,980
2013	14,125

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<sup>1</sup> Note: enrollment for 2009 is above the University's projected figure of 13,56 (+197)

# Fraternity and Sorority Community Statistics: Fall 2009<sup>2</sup>

## Total Chapters: 57

- Percentage of Undergraduates affiliated with Fraternity and Sorority Life: 28%
  
- **IFC Chapters: 28**
  - Average Chapter Size: 41
  - Range of Chapter Sizes: 23-56
  - All 28 IFC Chapters have facilities located off-Grounds
  - Spring 2009: Phi Kappa Sigma to re-colonize Eta Chapter
  
- **ISC Chapters: 16**
  - 15 NPC groups, 1 associate chapter
  - Average Chapter Size: 106
  - Range of Chapter Sizes<sup>3</sup>: 88-112
  - 15 NPC chapters have facilities located off-Grounds
  - Associate Chapter does not currently have a facility
  
- **NPHC Chapters: 7**
  - 3 NPHC Sororities; 4 NPHC Fraternities
  - Average Chapter Size: 8
  
- **MGC Chapters: 6**
  - 2 Asian-interest sororities; 1 Latina sorority; 1 Multicultural sorority
  - 1 Asian-interest fraternity; 1 Multicultural fraternity (interest group)

## Spring 2009 Academic Information:

- All U. Va. Grade Point Average: 3.234
- All Fraternity & Sorority Grade Point Average: 3.188
- All IFC Grade Point Average: 3.102
- All ISC Grade Point Average: 3.273
- All MGC Grade Point Average: 2.905
- All NPHC Grade Point Average: 2.200

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<sup>2</sup> As reported by fraternity and sorority chapters

<sup>3</sup> Statistics prior to 2010 Formal Recruitment

## Inter-Sorority Council Recruitment Data (2005-2009)

	2009	2008	2007	2006
Number of women registered	819	829	755	750
Number of women attending Round Robins (Open Houses)	741	774	755	692
Number of women attending Preference	556	629	601	569
Total PNM withdrawals	230	163	145	158
Total PNMs released	51	57	33	109 <sup>4</sup>
Total PNMs in Bid Matching	556	629	549	529
Total Matched in Bid Matching	523	592	519	480
Total Not Placed in Bid Matching	33	37	49	49
PNMs matching in Quota Additions	11	11	6	7
PNMs Matched in Snap Bidding	14	5	n/a	n/a
Total PNMs Placed	548	608	533	487
Quota	37	40	36	32
Number of PNMs with 1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	457	540	459	378
Number of PNMs with 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice	63	59	60	96
Number of PNMs with 3 <sup>rd</sup> choice	14	4	6	13
Number of Chapters Making Quota	12	12	12	13
Campus Total (pre-recruitment)	105	95	n/a	n/a
Campus Total (post-recruitment)	142	135	n/a	128

<sup>4</sup> In 2006, there was a vacancy among the Fraternity & Sorority Life staff and the ISC formal recruitment process was not closely supervised by a professional staff member. The vacancy was filled in 2007 providing greater oversight to the ISC and formal recruitment process.

## Proposed Extension Timeline

November 2009	Presentations to community
December 2009	Vote to open for extension
December 2009 - February 2010	Exploratory Visits
March 5, 2010	NPC extension applications due
March 31, 2010	Finalists notified of the status by committee
April 2010	Finalists present
April 27, 2010	Vote to invite chapter(s) to campus (will occur no later than May 4, 2010)

# Inter-Sorority Council

## University of Virginia

Presented: November 16, 2009

Scheduled Vote: December 1, 2009

### *A Resolution Approving Panhellenic Extension at the University of Virginia*

- Whereas:** The Inter-Sorority Council at the University of Virginia in accordance with the Bylaws (Article X -Extension) has formed a committee for the purpose of researching the need and feasibility of extension; and,
- Whereas:** The committee has researched the areas of demographics, housing possibilities, sorority involvement and data regarding recruitment and enrollment rates; and,
- Whereas:** The Panhellenic community at the University of Virginia has consistently grown in size and has most recently seen an increase in interest among potential new members; and,
- Whereas:** This growth has placed a tremendous burden on many of the chapters, as current facilities are unable to accommodate large chapter sizes, chapters are forced to hold chapter meetings outside of their houses, some chapters hold meal functions in rotating shifts, chapters have limited parking available to accommodate this burgeoning membership and the current size of chapters limits opportunities for sisterhood and effective membership development; and,
- Whereas:** The strategic plan for the University Virginia calls for the continued growth of the University, with a stated goal of accommodating 39,000 more students into our system before 2020. This growth while projected to occur between the years

of 1990-2020 has and will continue to result in the growth of the Panhellenic community; and,

**Whereas:** In Spring Recruitment 2009, 281 women were released or withdrew from recruitment, and this number can be expected to continue to grow as the number of women participating in recruitment grows and these women will present a large, high quality pool of potential members for a new colony; and,

**Whereas:** The Panhellenic community recognizes the increased interest in a diverse system as evidenced by the establishment and continued growth in membership of a local sorority, Sigma Delta, as an Associate Member of the Inter-Sorority Council; and,

**Whereas:** The National Panhellenic Conference Executive Office has been contacted for an Extension packet and is following the guidelines and recommendations as outlined by the NPC; and,

**Whereas:** The proposal to begin the process will require a four-fifths affirmative vote of the Inter-Sorority Council; and,

**Whereas:** It is necessary for each member fraternity to have ample opportunity to contact and consult with their respective NPC delegate, the vote is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 thus giving two weeks to discuss the proposal.

**LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT:**

**Section 1:** The Inter-Sorority Council at the University of Virginia votes to open for extension and instructs the UVA Extension Committee to formally notify the National Panhellenic Conference Extension Committee of this decision and to provide all the necessary documentation as outlined by the NPC Extension Packet.

**Section 2:** The Inter-Sorority Council at the University of Virginia further instructs the Extension Committee to develop and present a timeline for the extension process following the outline in the NPC Extension Packet.

**Section 3:** It is the intent of the Inter-Sorority Council at the University of Virginia to conduct extension to satisfy the needs of our associate chapter. An NPC organization will be chosen immediately in accordance with the timeline being set forth by the extension committee. The colonization of this chapter will take place in the Spring of 2011.

**Section 4:** Additionally it is in the intent of the Inter-Sorority Council at the University of Virginia to conduct further extension to help support the growing Panhellenic community. An NPC organization will be chosen in accordance with the timeline being set forth by the extension committee. The colonization of this chapter will take place in the Spring 2013, provided that the conditions are ideal for supporting this new chapter.

**Section 5:** This resolution will be effective immediately upon passage of a 4/5 affirmative vote in accordance with the Inter-Sorority Council Bylaws.

**Author of the resolution:** Inter-Sorority Council Extension Committee

**Action taken by:** Inter-Sorority Council

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Approved, Kelly McLaughlin, ISC President

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Date