

In Grateful Appreciation For His Outstanding Commitment  
To Advancing The Greek Community, We Adopt The Following:

## **The Robert Kerr Community Doctrine**

### **A Statement of Commitment**

The Greek community at Oregon State University has a heritage of extraordinary achievements, beneficial partnerships with both the university and the Corvallis community, diversity amongst our membership and a tradition of innovation for over 100 years. Of the 800 plus college campuses that have established Greek communities, Oregon State University has earned a place of distinction and honors both locally, regionally and nationally.

We represent 47 organizations. Yet, a common bond exists in these separate entities. One fostered by the belief in love; rooted in the teachings of every philosophy, every religion and every spiritual movement - exemplified in the principles of Character, Chivalry, Diligence, Honor, Justice, Knowledge, Sacrifice, Scholarship, Service, Trust and Virtue.

These principles represent more than tangible rewards in the physical world. Our foundations were carefully laid by an extraordinary group of men and women; people with conviction, ideals and the courage to pursue them. But our community still remains imperfect.

We, the leaders of the Greek community, identify the importance of coming together in solidarity and integrate our values in everyday actions. We share and challenge ourselves to build upon our strengths and help improve the lives of others. We must remain dedicated to the continued improvement of our community on this campus.

As we continue to reexamine this social system, we would like to highlight that each of our organizations, its members, and all future affiliates with the Greek community at Oregon State University, commit themselves to our goals/values as well as discuss policies and ideas in the following areas:

- Alcohol Abuse
- Sexual Assault/Misconduct
- Hazing
- Inclusivity

### **Alcohol Abuse**

We identify that alcohol abuse is nationally recognized as a serious, often life threatening, problem within our organizations. We recognize that the likelihood of students, especially first-year students, to engage in high-risk drinking (i.e. binge drinking) is a critical issue on our campus that we must address in order to uphold our values and missions. Thus, we propose

that each member, organization, and our community as a whole, must take action to ensure the safety of all individuals. We commit ourselves to providing safe environments and education for all our members around safe drinking practices. We will develop collaborative relationships with the university and the Corvallis community to establish a widespread shift in the drinking culture at Oregon State University.

We aim to mitigate the high-risk drinking that occurs in our spaces. But, we also recognize that much of the high-risk binge drinking on campus occurs outside of our view. Thus, we neither condone nor facilitate this practice through our organizations. We are more than willing to collaborate with the administration and other relevant bodies to develop more strategies in which, we, as the largest social system on campus, can contribute to the conversation about safe/responsible alcohol consumption.

## **Sexual Assault/Misconduct**

We recognize that our social system is such that sexual assault/misconduct occurs. This is unacceptable and shameful. Every student, regardless of affiliation, gender identification, or sexual orientation, deserves the fundamental right to feel safe at Oregon State University. Thus, we do not condone violence towards any human being and we will not tolerate sexual violence of any nature by our members.

Instead, we dedicate ourselves to promoting and upholding the safety of our campus community at all times. We propose to make our spaces more conducive to safe social behavior.

We employ a zero tolerance policy for sexual assault/misconduct. Any member found guilty of such behavior will be removed from their respective organization and barred from re-joining the Greek community. Also, if a Greek Letter Organization (GLO) member is placed on suspension for sexual misconduct, he or she will also be expelled from his or her Greek organization, effective immediately. As a community, we commit ourselves to supporting survivors of sexual assault and sexual misconduct.

We will continue to work with the administration, community experts, and student leaders to further address this problem. Because, only through constructive and collaborative work can we continue to make our spaces as safe and inviting as possible.

## **Hazing**

We do not condone or encourage any act of hazing conducted by or associated with our organizations. It is unproductive and hazardous behavior that has no place in our community, either on or off campus. We understand that this is damaging to human beings. We define hazing as: any action taken or situation created, whether voluntarily or involuntary, to produce mental or physical discomfort, pain, harm, embarrassment, moral degradation, harassment or ridicule, including any activities which are not consistent with federal, state or applicable local and institutional laws and/or regulations.

So, we reaffirm our agreement and commitment to abide by the policies, procedures, and expectations set forth by the administration and our inter/national headquarters. We also affirm that our new member program activities do not conflict with the policies set forth by our inter/national sororities and fraternities. Furthermore, we understand that if we falsify information concerning our organizations, and its individual members (e.g. inductees, active and alumni/ae members of the Greek community), we will be subject to disciplinary action.

Thus, we commit ourselves to addressing the topic of hazing through three means of eradication (education, prevention, and elimination).

## **Inclusivity**

Moving forward, we reaffirm our commitment to making our organizations and spaces inclusive to the Oregon State University community. As hosts of social gatherings, we are deeply responsible for the safety and well-being of our members and guests. So, we will take on several initiatives that will make a substantial difference in creating an inclusive environment.

These initiatives include, but are not limited to: implementing the necessary steps to ensure that all who interact with our organizations, whether as a member or a guest, are comfortable; improve upon the lateral communication amongst all groups and organizations to advance coordinated efforts in achieving community goals; be supportive and accepting of all individuals; have an understanding of all cultures and identities; and make it clear to our members that we hold them to the highest standards and are accountable for their actions.

In keeping with our Greek community values, we recommend that each GLO co-host a termly discussion with a non-Greek student group on neutral grounds to further educate members on issues of community (e.g. race, gender, class, sexual orientation). Through this platform we hope to promote cultural sensitivity and a welcoming environment for all students on campus.

To further our efforts, we will not partake in cultural appropriated activities that are a by-product of imperialism, capitalism, oppression, and assimilation. This harmful action is an extension of centuries of racism, genocide, and oppression that does not represent our community and the efforts set forth to be inclusive and diverse.

We also strongly believe in making Greek organizations as financially accessible as possible to all current and prospective members.

## **Conclusion**

We, the Greek community, have facilitated enormously positive experiences for thousands of past and present students. However, we're not perfect, and we must continually question and challenge ourselves to move the community forward.

As we look to the next century, our Greek community will continue to advance our ideals and struggle with the changing environment in which we exist. We, the student leaders of the Greek community, are highly invested in supporting a culture of thoughtfulness, inclusivity, and responsibility.

We will see the continued growth of the Multicultural Greek organizations, the expansion of Greek entities without chapter facilities and the development of the co-ed Greek experience. We will deepen our relationship with the Corvallis community and enhance our relationship with the campus community. But, most importantly, we must embrace and honor the unique identifies of every member of the Greek community and celebrate our shared values and hope for a brighter future for all humanity. We have a wealth of talent and wisdom in our community and this offers great hope for our combined futures.

We urge the administration to take seriously the proposed commitments outlined in this doctrine. As the student leaders of these Greek organizations, we strongly believe that we have the insight and ability to enact changes that will affect positive outcomes.

Through this doctrine we make the future status and institutional commitment to the Greek community at Oregon State University an unambiguous matter for future leaders.

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