

## **Message Concerning Unrecognized/Underground Greek-letter Organizations**

As a publicly funded University under the State System of Pennsylvania, ESU shall not infringe upon a student's free speech and association rights. Therefore, as a matter of best practice, it is recommended that affiliated members of recognized organizations do not engage with, co-sponsor, collaborate, or participate in any activity with members of, or organizations that are not recognized by the University.

There are additional risks associated with such activities. An unrecognized or underground group will not have the ability to provide liability insurance coverage to its officers, general members, or guests. As a result, any incident that occurs that causes damage to university property, private property, or cause injury to oneself, or others will be the responsibility of a parent or guardian's homeowner's insurance to cover damages resulting from the action(s) of any individual(s) that is found to be identified as being a member of an unrecognized organization at ESU.

Additionally, any student identified as being a member of an unrecognized group may be in violation of trademark rights of a National or International fraternal organization and may be subject to criminal charges and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

**Definition:** An unrecognized organization is any fraternity, sorority, or other similar social organization that:

- Previously was recognized by the University but is no longer so recognized; or
- Has a membership and purpose substantially identical to a fraternity or sorority that previously was recognized by the University but is no longer recognized by the University, even if operating under a different name; or
- Purports to be any other fraternity, sorority, or Greek organization not recognized by the University.

The University retains full and final authority to determine whether a particular organization is operating as an unrecognized organization, or recognized chapters have been involved in incidents with members of or unrecognized organizations that violate provisions of the code of conduct.