INTRODUCTION

Congratulations and good luck in your decision to actively seek registration of your social organization at Ramapo College of New Jersey. Frequently, you will find that you will be responsible for reporting to any of four or more organizations including:

1. The College
2. Your national organization
3. The Inter Greek Senate (I.G.S.)
4. An affiliated umbrella governing body (i.e. I.F.C., N.P.C., N.P.H.C., U.C.G.C.)

In all cases regarding rules governing Ramapo College chapters, college policies will prevail. In cases where the executive governing body or umbrella organizations impose stricter guidelines (i.e. grades, number of members, etc.), the stricter of the two will prevail as long as the college policy will not be violated or compromised. Under current Board of Trustees policies, any organization meeting the requirements set out by the Board must be registered by the College.

The first step toward registration is becoming an Interest Group. Once accorded this status, you will be eligible to:

1. Reserve campus space for Interest meetings
2. Co-sponsor events with recognized organizations
3. Use college services at inside group rates
4. Engage in philanthropic activities

You could jeopardize your status by taking part in any of the following activities:

1. Engaging in any new member or Recruitment activities during the Interest Group status period.
2. Knowingly engaging in activities that are in direct violation of mandates put forth by your governing structures.
3. Affiliating with an auxiliary or non-registered organization.

Please read the following section carefully and see the Assistant Director of Student Development/Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life if you should have any questions, concerns or issues.

Good Luck!
INTRODUCTION

Ramapo College values college social organizations as an important component of the student life experience. These organizations complement academic and student support services by permitting their members to pursue their educational goals while providing opportunities for leadership and service within the College and community-at-large. Ramapo College recognizes the importance of the professional support and expertise derived from cooperation with a national and local network of fraternities and sororities.

The Division of Student Affairs has adopted the following policies regarding the registration of fraternity and sororities. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, with the assistance and recommendations of the Inter-Greek Senate (I.G.S.), administers these policies. College benefits will be extended only to those organizations in compliance.

In all cases regarding rules governing Ramapo College chapters, College policies will prevail. In cases where nationals impose stricter guidelines (i.e., grades, numbers of members), the stricter of the two will prevail as long as the College policy will not be violated or compromised.

As a result, the Expansion Committee will carefully scrutinize national constitutions to ensure consistent adherence to College policies. Any inconsistencies will be questioned, investigated, and rectified.

A. Formation of a Fraternity/Sorority

1. A minimum of five interested (5) students is required when a campus fraternity or sorority seeks colony and/or chapter status. Once the group has been registered at the College, it must maintain a minimum of two (2) members to preserve this status.

B. Procedures for Gaining Interest Status

1. Schedule a meeting with the Fraternity & Sorority Life Graduate Assistant to review the standards for registration.
   *Note: the policies in effect at the time official Interest Status is gained, will apply.

2. Submit the following materials to the Fraternity and Sorority Life Graduate Assistant (within the first 4 weeks of the semester) to attain formal Interest Status:
   a) An “Official Expression of Interest” form (Appendix A). (The organization will then be considered “Pre-Interest” with intent to apply for official Interest Status.)
   b) Current list of interested members to date with Ramapo Identification Numbers (R#)
   c) A statement of national support or petition letter(s)
   d) Note: For National Panhellenic Conference (N.P.C.) groups, form must be first reviewed by the N.P.C. sub-council for expansion (See Section E).
   e) Documentation demonstrating that your social fraternity or sorority is “exempt from taxation under section 501 (a) of Title 26, and is an organization that consists primarily of students in attendance at an institution of higher education.” Title IX is the federal law that permits fraternities and sororities to be single-sex organizations, and their certification is required to prove adherence with this law that permits fraternities and sororities to be single-sex organization, and their certification is required to prove adherence with this law.
   f) Statement of goals and purposes

4. Upon successful submission of such materials, the Fraternity and Sorority Life Graduate Assistant will notify the appropriate sub-council for which the organization will be joining.

5. Each organization must present to the appropriate sub-council at the next available open meeting immediately following recruitment.
Regular weekly meetings will be scheduled with the Fraternity and Sorority Life Graduate Assistant
g) Interest Status Conditions Agreement Form (Appendix K).

C. Interest Group Guidelines/Standards
1. Benefits include:
   a) Ability to hold general interest meetings to be arranged through the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. (i.e. space will be reserved with the Office of Events and Conference by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life)
   b) Ability to use services at inside group rates provided by the College (i.e. printing, graphics, etc.). Services must be arranged through the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
   c) Plan three events per semester, each of the following categories must be met: educational/leadership, social, philanthropic. Advertising must state “…a social organization seeking registration at Ramapo College.” In addition the interest group must complete one on-campus community service project or one significant local community service project where a minimum of 50% of the membership participates.
   d) Plan four interest meetings and provide examples of advertisements. Advertising must state “…a social organization seeking registration at Ramapo College.”

2. Responsibilities include:
   a) At least one member must attend the every I.G.S. meeting and mandated Fraternity & Sorority Life organized events beginning at the point when Interest Group status has been granted. One unexcused absence will result in a loss of Interest Group status. If the organization has a conflicting schedule, the representative must communicate this information in writing to the I.G.S. secretary and the Fraternity and Sorority Life Graduate Assistant.
   b) All publicity must state, “…a fraternity/sorority seeking registration at Ramapo College.”
   c) A copy of all publicity must be filed with the Fraternity and Sorority Life Graduate Assistant.
   d) The representative of the Interest Group must schedule weekly meetings with the Fraternity and Sorority Life Graduate Assistant to review progress toward registration.

3. Limitations include:
   a) Interest meetings may not occur during Recruitment or Greek Week.
   b) No new member education (pledging) is permitted until the group has received official status as a registered organization.
   c) Indications of pledging (e.g. noise violation by organized group acting in concert, etc.) will be considered a violation of the Code of Conduct by an organization and may also result in the loss of Interest Group status for a specified time or permanently.
   d) The group may not vote at I.G.S. meetings.
   e) No Interest Group may co-sponsor an event with an organization that is not registered, is de-registered, or is an auxiliary organization. This may result in revocation of Interest Group status or in other sanctions
   f) Interest Groups may not raise funds on campus unless for a philanthropic event. Any funds raised on campus for philanthropy must be deposited into a SARM account, and a check cut to the recipient organization within five (5) business days. Receipts must be provided for reimbursement of any expenses. Additional fundraising events to benefit the chapter may not commence until they are fully registered organization.

D. Procedures for Gaining Registration Status
1. The Interest Group will appear before the appropriate sub-council for registration consideration according to the Fraternity & Sorority Life Expansion schedule and will submit a binder of materials for review. If a group is not ready to appear for registration consideration according to the schedule, it may appeal to Fraternity & Sorority Life for a one-semester extension of Interest Group status.

2. The binder of materials must be turned into the Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life for review one week before the final sub-council expansion presentation.
3. The binder must consist of the materials listed below. It must be arranged with the tabs, cover sheets or headings corresponding to each item of required chapter information, and a separate section indicating regional/national information listed in the same order as below.

a) Chapter Information:
   - List of members, including their Ramapo ID# (R#) numbers and dates of Ramapo College admission
   - Authentication signature from Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life indicating acceptable cumulative GPA and total credits to date for each member as well as chapter GPA computation.
   *Note: Grades must be in accordance with the specified rules of pledging—i.e. 12 credit with a minimum 2.5 GPA or 24 credits with a minimum 2.25 GPA.

b) Signed Advisor Agreement that outlines his/her responsibilities to the chapter (Appendix C)

c) Statement of Organization Missions describing how the organization’s mission adheres to and will further the mission of Ramapo College.

d) Constitution and By-Laws of the Chapter and of the National Organization (of applicable), as well as any requirements of the National Organization for its local chapters. Constitutions must include the procedure for the adjudication of member misconduct, a statement regarding the group’s anti-hazing position/policy, and the group’s code of conduct. (See Section 3b for further elaboration of national information needed.)

e) Complete minimum of one on-campus community service project or one significant local community service project where a minimum of 50% of the membership participates. Names of participants should appear on the letter from the social service organization documenting the service.

f) Excess liability insurance certification in the amount of $1,000,000.00 naming the College, its officers, its Board and the State of New Jersey as “named insureds.”

g) Certification regarding 50% of chapter attendance at special educational seminars (as authenticated by the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life) Seminars are held on topics such as hazing, alcohol and substance abuse, social host liability law, etc.

h) Membership Rush/Recruitment Plan (agreed to by Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life). Document should state how qualified members will be sought out. Any discrimination forbidden by Federal, State or local law or by College policy is strictly prohibited.

i) Individual member’s agreement to abide by College rules and signed statement affirming that all sponsored activities and pledge/new member activities will be held in accordance with the College Code of Conduct.

j) Required in accordance with NJ law, a “Bill of Rights” signed by each prospective member (Appendix D).

k) Statement of non-affiliation with auxiliary groups and non-registered groups.


4. For regional/national organizations, the chapter must also provide the following information. If some policies do not exist, a statement to that effect must be included.
i. Letter from national confirming colony status or affiliation, stating support with
description of supervision provided to chapter, and outlining any
requirements/parameters indicative of status.

ii. Names, addresses and phone numbers governing organizational board/headquarters
personnel and local chapter advisor.

iii. Number and location of active chapters with contact information.

iv. List of the five closest chapters with contact information

v. Copy of the new member education program.

vi. Copy of the official hazing policy

vii. Copy of the rush/recruitment program

viii. Risk Management Policy and Procedures

ix. Financial Policies

x. Public Relation Programs

xi. Leadership or Member Development Program

xii. Scholarship Program

xiii. Judicial Policies

xiv. Community Service and Philanthropy policies

xv. Code of Conduct

xvi. Career Counseling/Networking program

xvii. Copy of published newsletters or magazine

xviii. Other Programming Resources

E. National Panhellenic Conference (N.P.C.) Organizations are as follows:
Upon receipt of an extension request The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will discuss the extension
exploration with the College Panhellenic Sub-Council (CPH). An official vote to open campus for
extension will occur and if CPH is in favor of extension the meeting minutes will be sent to NPC
Extension Committee.

1. If the CPH decides to move forward with establishing an NPC group on campus an official letter from
Vice President of Student Affairs or Dean of Students must be sent to NPC Extension Committee with the
following information:

   i) The total number of female undergraduates.
   ii) The total number of female, full-time undergraduates.
   iii) The total number of female residential undergraduates.
   iv) The number of N.P.C. organizations currently in place at Ramapo.
   v) Membership numbers for each N.P.C. group now on campus
   vi) Likelihood the new group can meet the board of Trustee’s standards for registration.
   vii) Statement of mission/purpose of new group.
   viii) The number of eligible women who have formally expressed interest in joining the new
group.
   ix) Likely financial stability of the new group.
   x) Records of any violations of published college policies by the group prior to expansion
application and at time of review.
xi) Benefit to the N.P.C. (and benefits to the College) of the new group.
xii) Factors that would weigh against allowing expansion of groups. (This cannot be “Blackballing” of the interested individuals for reasons unrelated to the above criteria)

2. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life will post the extension opportunity in the NPC Extension Bulletin; interested NPC groups are directed to respond to the campus designated contact. A deadline for interested NPC groups to submit materials will be determined and set. Upon receipt of extension materials from interested NPC groups the CPH will vote extend an invitation for extension presentations.

3. After an invitation is accepted the CPH will schedule campus presentations with the interested NPC groups.

4. The CPH Extension Committee will vote on which NPC group to extend invitation to colonize. The Committee will be comprised of the following people:
   a. Panhellenic Executive Board (one vote per organization)
   b. Panhellenic Advisor
   c. Graduate Assistant for Fraternity & Sorority Life
   d. Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life

5. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will contact all NPC groups regarding the decision.

6. At the beginning of the following semester the anticipated colonization of the chosen NPC group will begin.

F. Expansion Procedures
The sub-council will discuss the requests of fraternities and sororities to expand and/or review requests to form new fraternity and sorority chapters at Ramapo College that aspire to affiliate with national organizations. The recommendation of the sub-council is forwarded to the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life for approval from the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.

1. Expansion Process
   a) The Graduate Assistant for Fraternity & Sorority Life will read any expansion applications.
      i. The Graduate Assistant for Fraternity & Sorority Life will inform the group of their final presentation date which will occur at the second to last meeting of the particular sub-council. By sub-council majority vote it will be decided to endorse the group and forward a recommendation to the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life for approval from the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.

      ii. Approval or disapproval of registration may only come from the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs or designee action on behalf of the College.

   b) Recommendation for reapplication
      i) Appeals concerning reapplication after one semester must be sent within 24 hours to the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life who will forward them to the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs or designee.

      ii) In the event the recommendation for reapplication is upheld, the group will maintain Interest Status for an additional semester until the next vote. If materials are found to be incomplete a second time, the group will lose their Interest Status, and all privileges herein, and may not apply for a full academic year (2 semesters).

   c) Recommendation denied
ii) The only way registration may be denied is if the group did not adequately complete the materials required to be in the binder or violated the Interest Group Conditions Agreement. ii) If the group wishes to appeal the decision, a letter as well as the sub-council’s written rationale must be sent within 24 hours to the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life who will forward them with the binder of materials to the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs or designee for final determination.

G. Conditionally Registered Organizations

Once a group has been approved, they will be considered “conditionally registered” for a period of 15 weeks, beginning the day of the final approval. During that time they may take a pledge/ new member class but must also adhere to the following requirements:

1) Submit monthly reports of activities to the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the IGS.
2) Sponsor two events, one of which must be philanthropic.
3) Maintain a minimum of two members (or abide by national minimum if higher)
4) Follow all other requirements for chapters in good standing.
5) Meet monthly with the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
6) Attend a review meeting with the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the Graduate Assistant of Fraternity & Sorority Life at the end of this conditional period to evaluate chapter progress.

*Failure to meet these requirements will result in an extension of this conditional status for an additional semester. Significant delinquency in the required areas may result in a recommended loss of registration to the Associate Vice-President of Student Affairs or designee.

Revised 10/10
OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN INTER-FRATERNAL REGISTRATION

The completion of this form represents the first step in starting a fraternity or sorority on campus. It serves to indicate to the Assistant Director of Student Development/Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life that advisement services will be needed for your registration process at the College.

1. What type of organization do you want to start at Ramapo College?
   - National Sorority (NPC) _______
   - National Fraternity (IFC) _______
   - Historically Black _______
   - Latino/a _______
   - Multicultural _______
   - Metropolitan/Regional Organization _______
   - Other _____________________________________

2. What is the name of the organization in which you are interested? _______________________

3. Is this a single sex organization? Yes___ No___ (If no, please contact the Assistant Director of Student Activities for Greek Affairs and Weekend Programming)

4. Is this organization nationally affiliated with an umbrella council (NPHC, NPC, NIC, NALFO, NMGC)? Yes___ No___
   If yes, with what umbrella council? ____________________________________________

5. Is this a metropolitan/regional organization? Yes___ No___
   If yes, in what other institutions? ____________________________________________

6. Are you starting a new (non-established) organization? Yes___ No___ (If yes, please contact the Assistant Director of Student Development/Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life)

7. Is a letter of support from the national/regional/governing board attached? Yes____ No____

8. Does the organization have documentation demonstrating that it is "exempt from taxation under section 501 (a) of Title 26, and is an organization that consists primarily of students in attendance at an institution of higher education?" An exemption to Title IX permits fraternities and sororities to be single-sex organizations, and this certification is required to prove adherence with this law.
   Yes____ No____

Contact Information
1. Name of governing body contact___________________________________________________
   Phone Number (______) ___________________   E-mail______________________________

2. Name of Ramapo Student Contact:________________________________________________
   Local Address______________________________________________________________
   Cell (______) ___________________________   Phone (______) ______________________
   E-mail______________________________________________________________

3. Name of Prospective Faculty/Staff Advisor: ___________________________ Phone______________
   Department ___________________________ Signature of Advisor________________________
INTEREST STATUS CONDITIONS AGREEMENT

This form should be filled out by the interest group representative AFTER gaining Temporary Registration status.

Interest Group__________________________________________________________

President/Primary Representative Name_____________________________________

I, the representative for ______________________________________________ Interest Group hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Expansion Policy. I understand that it is my responsibility to read and understand all the information contained within, and to communicate that information to the rest of my interest members. I also hereby acknowledge that any violation of the following conditions may result in an inability to gain registration status permanently or for a designated period of time.

1. Benefits include:
   e) Ability to hold general interest meetings to be arranged through the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. (i.e. space will be reserved with the Office of Events and Conference by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life)
   f) Ability to use services at inside group rates provided by the College (i.e. printing, graphics, etc.). Services must be arranged through the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
   g) Plan three events per semester, each of the following categories must be met:
      educational/leadership, social, philanthropic. Advertising must state “…a social organization seeking registration at Ramapo College.” In addition the interest group must complete one on-campus community service project or one significant local community service project where a minimum of 50% of the membership participates.
   h) Plan four interest meetings and provide examples of advertisements. Advertising must state “…a social organization seeking registration at Ramapo College.”

2. Responsibilities include:
   a) At least one member must attend the every I.G.S. meeting and mandated Fraternity & Sorority Life organized events beginning at the point when Interest Group status has been granted. One unexcused absence will result in a loss of Interest Group status. If the organization has a conflicting schedule, the representative must communicate this information in writing to the I.G.S. secretary and the Fraternity and Sorority Life Graduate Assistant.
   b) All publicity must state, “…a fraternity/sorority seeking registration at Ramapo College.”
   c) A copy of all publicity must be filed with the Fraternity and Sorority Life Graduate Assistant.
   d) The representative of the Interest Group must schedule weekly meetings with the Fraternity and Sorority Life Graduate Assistant to review progress toward registration.

3. Limitations include:
   g) Interest meetings may not occur during Recruitment or Greek Week.
   h) No new member education (pledging) is permitted until the group has received official status as a registered organization.
   i) Indications of pledging (e.g. noise violation by organized group acting in concert, etc.) will be considered a violation of the Code of Conduct by an organization and may also result in the loss of Interest Group status for a specified time or permanently.
   j) The group may not vote at I.G.S. meetings.
   k) No Interest Group may co-sponsor an event with an organization that is not registered, is de-registered, or is an auxiliary organization. This may result in revocation of Interest Group status or in other sanctions.
1) Interest Groups may not fundraise on campus unless for a philanthropic event. Any funds raised on campus for philanthropy must be deposited into a SARM account, and a check cut to the recipient organization within five (5) business days. Receipts must be provided for reimbursement of any expenses. Additional fundraising events to benefit the chapter may not commence until they are fully registered organization.

President/Primary Representative Name_________________________________________________________
Date:
FRATERNITY OR SORORITY FACULTY OR STAFF ADVISOR AGREEMENT

Fraternity/Sorority Name:

The advisor is essential to the development of a chapter. She/he provides the chapter with continuity and helps it attain its goals. The advisor is also a liaison between the chapter and the college. At Ramapo, all chapters are required to have an advisor to achieve and maintain registration status.

The advisor can have a major impact on a student's life. It is very important to students when a faculty or staff person takes an interest in them. Since a great deal of learning takes place outside of the classroom, it is important for the advisor to become involved in the co-curricular life of the student. The successful advisor has an understanding of the broad parameters of his/her job, as well as a clear perception of the expectations, which are held for him/her. The chapter advisor is crucial in determining the chapter's overall quality, guiding the chapter as an organization and counseling individual chapter members.

The primary responsibilities of the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor are to provide advice and guidance in the following areas:

Compliance
- Assist the Executive Board by helping the chapter to meet the registration requirements.
- Maintain accurate and complete lists of members.
- Monitor adherence to college, state and national laws, policies and procedures.
- Serve as a link between the chapter and the institution and assist the chapter with school policies and procedural matters.
- Continue risk management education for all members.
- Ensure chapter completes required forms (college and executive governing body) and maintains proper files.
- Read and understand all Ramapo College policies and procedures referring to Greek organizations.
- Understand that Ramapo College’s policies take precedence over any national or local chapter rules.
- Meet once per semester with Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life to discuss chapter's progress.

Scholastic
- Provide assistance and means for our students to meet their educational needs.
- Monitor the semester grade point averages and cumulative credit accumulations of each member. These grades are available through the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
- Help the chapter evaluate the academic eligibility of prospective new members, initiates and officers.
- Actively encourage high academic achievement by chapter members and report any member whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0. Review with individual
members their scholastic achievement, and provide referral to support services and resources throughout the College.

- Assist the chapter’s scholarship chairperson in maintaining a list of referrals for members who are having academic problems. Collect and file records of the chapter's academic performance.
- Counsel the scholarship chairperson and committee in developing and executing a scholarship program. A program of scholastic excellence should include a design of awards and incentives, thus helping to establish an appropriate chapter environment for scholastics.
- Conduct at least one workshop each year on how to improve academic performance (i.e. study skills workshop).
- Assist students in maintaining the highest level of academic integrity.
- Understand the importance of scholarship and be able to identify the students' weaknesses.

Financial Management

- Provide knowledge and guidance to help the students create a consistent bookkeeping system, learn financial accountability, and keep the chapter out of debt.
- Review expenditures of the chapter to assure that priorities are maintained and that the chapter is operating in sound financial condition.
- Examine all financial transaction records carefully to ensure fraud does not occur.
- Ensure that all reports and payments are proper and correct, particularly reports of new members.
- Make certain the chapter is current with all-applicable fees and dues owed to the chapter’s executive governing body.
- Provide guidance for the chapter on any dispute that may arise between the chapter and outside suppliers.

New Members

- Ensure illegal discrimination is not part of member selection.
- Review new member programs to ensure that scholastic performance is encouraged and not hindered by the development program. Ensure that time commitment for pledge/new member activities are not excessive.
- Assist in providing new members with valuable programming that concentrates on scholarship, values, and beliefs in the fraternity or sorority.
- Supervise the chapter's new member program and implementation of the program.
- Develop a working rapport with all new members.
- Be thoroughly familiar with the college’s comprehensive anti-hazing policy.
- Meet with new members to explain to them information relevant to the chapter, and to answer any questions.

Internal/External Communication

- Attend chapter meetings and programs on a regular basis.
- Be accessible to the membership and its officers. This is important because you will probably be the first person to know of problems.
- Meet with incoming chapter officers as soon as possible following their election to office.
• Supervise the chapter's progress and maintain a working relationship with the whole chapter.
• Meet with the chapter members and learn as much about each member as possible.
• Assist the chapter in creating a Faculty - Chapter event.
• Provide assistance for the purpose of effectively marketing and promoting the chapter on the campus.
• Assist the Chapter in formulating written annual goals, the annual report, etc.
• Maintain contact with the national office of the chapter and any national representatives who visit Ramapo.
• Encourage balanced fund-raising, awareness raising, and volunteer projects.
• Report promptly to the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life any violations of law or college policy with regard to the organization or its members which you become aware. In particular, report “clery level” infractions to the Director of Public Safety or to the Vice Provost of Student Affairs per the form provided.
• Assist the college in effective and disciplinary sanctions imposed after appropriate hearing help.

Organization__________________________________________________________

Print Name__________________________________________________________

Department/Office____________________________________________________

Campus Address_______________________________________________________ Phone_________________

Faculty / Staff Signature*____________________________________________ Date_________________

*Note: The advisor must be a full-time member of the faculty or baccalaureate degree holding full-time staff member at Ramapo College

Thanks to Sigma Phi Epsilon, Pi Kappa Phi, and Lehigh University for their assistance with this document.
DECLARATION OF MEMBER AND CHAPTER RESPONSIBILITIES
PLEDGE’S BILL OF RIGHTS

The following shall serve as a Bill of Rights for all students who shall elect to join a fraternity or a sorority at Ramapo College of New Jersey. These shall be construed as the minimum rights to be afforded to each and every initiate. It is assumed that a Bill of Rights is a basic document in which free men and women are guaranteed freedom from any type of irresponsible action on the part of individuals or organizations. It is also assumed that such a document will serve to reassure the initiates and to enhance rather than hinder the initiating organizations.

Statutory Authority
This Pledge’s Bill of Rights has been developed by the New Jersey State Attorney General pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:3-24 et seq.

Pledge: For the purpose of the Pledge’s Bill of Rights a pledge is defined as any student of the college/university attempting to become a member of a fraternity or sorority or other similar campus organization.

Definition of Hazing
For the purpose of this Pledge’s Bill of Rights "hazing" shall mean
1. As indicated, pursuant to New Jersey Statute:

2C:40-3.
A. A person is guilty of hazing, a disorderly persons offense, if, in connection with initiation of applicants to or members of a student or fraternal organization, he knowingly or recklessly organizes, promotes, facilitates or engages in any conduct, other than competitive events, which place another person in danger of bodily injury.

B. A person is guilty of aggravated hazing; a crime of fourth degree, if he commits an act prohibited in subsection A. Which results in serious bodily injury to another person.

2C:40-4. Notwithstanding any other provision of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to a prosecution under this act.

2C:40-5. Conduct constituting an offense under this Act may, at the discretion of the prosecuting attorney, be prosecuted under any other applicable provision of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes; and

2. Other behaviors or activities in addition to those prohibited under N.J.S.A. 2C:40 et seq.
Defined as hazing by a college or university with respect to its students.

Prohibition on Hazing
1. A pledge shall have the right to be free of all activities which may constitute hazing while attempting to become a member of a fraternity or sorority, or other campus organization. Campus organizations and their members are prohibited from engaging in or encouraging others to engage in activities that are defined and hazing.

2. A broad range of behaviors that may place another person in danger of bodily or behavior that demonstrates indifference or disregard for another person’s dignity or well-being may be classified as hazing under the above definition. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

• Forced or required ingestion of alcohol, drugs, food or any undesirable substance.
• Participation in sexual rituals or assaults.
• Mentally abusive or demeaning behavior.
• Acts that could result in physical, mental or emotional deprivation or harm.
• Physical abuse, e.g., whipping, paddling, beating, tattooing, branding, and exposure to the elements.

Acceptable Behavior
The pledge initiation process should be conducted in a manner that respects the dignity or pledges and protects their mental and physical well being. Examples of acceptable behavior include pledge activities that are not classified as hazing, but promote scholarship, promote service, develop leadership and/or social skills, assist career goals, involve students with alumni, improve relations with others, build awareness of fraternity or sorority history,
instill a sense of brotherhood or sisterhood, foster solidarity or otherwise promote the institutional mission of the host college.

**Written Notification of Rights**
Institutions shall require all fraternities, sororities and other similar campus organizations to provide all pledges with a written Bill of Rights that includes the provisions set forth herein. The written Bill of Rights shall be signed by the student pledge and filed in the appropriate office of the institution.

**Other Policies Governing the Rush or Pledge Process**

1. Delineation of additional responsibilities of fraternities, sororities and other similar campus organizations in regard to rush or pledge activities shall rest with individual institutions. As such, institutions may develop policies and regulations governing other aspects of the rush or pledge process, which may include pledge and membership education, student eligibility to pledge, limitations on the pledge period and membership selection.

2. Institutions may develop policies and procedures for disciplining violators of its pledge process. Institutional action on a hazing violation is independent of any action that a prosecutor may pursue for violations under Title 2C.

Name of Organization________________________________________________________________________

Name of Intake Officer ____________________________                                Name of President ____________________________

Signature of Intake Officer Date: ____________________________                             Signature of President Date: ____________________________

Names (PRINTED) & Signatures (ORIGINAL) of each initiate:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________