Greek Life Commons Agreement
2009

The Greek Life Commons Agreement is designed to extend to Greek Life the opportunity to be part of the innovative CLASS Initiative at Rensselaer. CLASS is a new student life model based on the concept of “Clustered Learning, Advocacy and Support for Students” (CLASS). Its purpose is to enhance the quality of student life for Rensselaer students, class by class, and it extends across the spectrum of student residential life at Rensselaer. It is a comprehensive effort built around time-based clustering and residential clusters, and builds upon, and augments, the Rensselaer First-Year Experience, with associated programming across all under-graduate years. CLASS incorporates clusters of residential halls or commons, with a combination of faculty deans living near each of the commons, live-in commons deans, upper class and graduate student assistants. It also incorporates the Dean of the First-Year Experience, and class-year deans (e.g., Class of 2013, Class of 2014, etc). All aspects of CLASS are coordinated to ensure an enhanced quality of life and academic experience for resident students after their first year.

There is the opportunity for one of the Commons or Clusters to be comprised of those students who live within the Greek system at Rensselaer.

As part of CLASS, in order to ensure that sophomores are actively engaged in the Sophomore-Year Experience, beginning in the Fall 2010, sophomore students must reside in Rensselaer Residence halls, unless they are permitted to live in the houses of fraternities and sororities that are recognized members of the Greek Life Commons. Fraternities and sororities that sign this Agreement can become recognized members of the Greek Life Commons.

As a signatory, if your chapter is approved to actively participate in the CLASS initiative, it will receive the full benefit of:

A) The Sophomore-Year Experience (effective fall, 2010 and beyond)
B) CLASS-specific program activities
C) Outreach initiatives generated by the Associate Dean for the Greek Life Commons.

No fraternity or sorority at Rensselaer is obligated to sign the Greek Life Commons Agreement in order to maintain your Rensselaer recognition as a fraternity or sorority in good standing. However, those sophomores who join and are initiated into Greek houses will only be permitted to reside in those houses that have signed the Greek Life Commons Agreement.
The Greek Life Commons Agreement is linked to the following existing Rensselaer and public policy documents that have application regarding university rules and regulations governing the recognition of fraternities and sororities. These related documents continue to have application regardless of whether or not a decision is made to sign or not sign the Agreement. However, for those fraternities and sororities that do execute this Agreement, its applicable provisions supersede, and take precedence over, any less stringent standards that might otherwise be expressed in:

- The Statement of Relationship Between Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Social Fraternities & Sororities at Rensselaer, specifically the section titled “Safety, Sanitation, and Fire Protection.” (Attachment A)
- Rensselaer health, safety, and fire protection (Attachment B)
- Annual 5-Star Standards of Accreditation (Attachment C)
- The Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities
- City of Troy and New York State code requirements

Therefore, for those who elect to participate, effective fall, 2010 and beyond, as members of the Greek Life Commons you agree:

A) To actively participate in CLASS program initiatives, including the Sophomore-Year Experience;

B) To actively participate in Faculty Deans programs focused on the stimulation of the intellectual, cultural, and social life of the Residential Commons;

C) To pro-actively respond to Assistant Dean outreach counseling and personal development initiatives;

D) To actively participate in Class Dean programs providing support for academic success, retention, and strong class affinity;

E) To actively participate in Greek Life Commons programs designed to strengthen Greek Life as a community;

F) To ensure that the standards of quality of the living environment in the fraternity or sorority, with regard to upkeep and maintenance, meets the Institute Residential Commons Standards (which may exceed the baseline City of Troy codes and standards). The upkeep and maintenance of the house must include spring clean up to the interior and exterior of the house prior to departure at the end of each spring semester, and summer maintenance must be consistent with university expectations. By the beginning of each academic year, the fraternity or sorority house must meet the Institute Residential Commons Standards. There will be inspections at the end of the school year and at the beginning of each fall semester, beginning fall, 2010, to ensure that each signatory will meet the Institute Residential Commons Standards.

G) To participate in an annual review of the Commons Agreement as an extension of existing annual reviews with the understanding that the focus is on ensuring that all compliance requirements, standards of housing living quality, and active participation in the CLASS program initiatives are being adhered to.
H) Continued participation in CLASS is conditioned upon successful completion of
the annual review.

I) The signatories to this Greek Life Commons Agreement acknowledge that they
recognize and understand that, where appropriate, this Agreement necessarily
supersedes some of the terms of the “Statement of Relationship Between
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Social Fraternities & Sororities at
Rensselaer”, and they not only agree to be bound by the terms of this
Agreement but re-affirm their adherence to and support of said Statement of
Relationship.

By: ____________________________
Mark Smith, Dean of Students

By: ____________________________
Chapter President

Date

By: ____________________________
Chapter Name

By: ____________________________
Chapter Advisor

Date

By: ____________________________
President (or Designee)

Date

Chapter Alumni Board/House Corporation