



# Position Statement On University Relationships

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One of the principle goals of the Fraternity Forward Coalition (FFC) is to develop better relationships with university administrators, to find areas of mutual interest and work to expand them. When interests diverge, they should do so with a clear understanding and continued open communications.

FFC firmly believes that strong fraternity systems are integral for higher education – especially during 2020 and this time of great uncertainty and the need to strengthen relationships between students and colleges and universities. The members of FFC hope to help our colleagues in higher education in such endeavors.

Other principle goals of FFC include:

- Working to strengthen understanding and communication of university conduct policies and ensuring that they include the important elements of due process, fundamental fairness, equality, and proportional discipline.
- Guaranteeing that students' fundamental constitutional right of free assembly is not impinged by anyone, including institutions of higher education. While FFC members seek to collaborate with colleagues in higher educations, our members may choose to affiliate with our national fraternal organizations without university recognition. Our interest in free assembly is not solely because of its constitutionality. We believe in self-determination as a critical stage of human development and in the lives of young men. The ability to make choices and manage one's life plays an important role in psychological health and well-being. Stripping individuals of self-determination significantly inhibits growth (Deci & Ryan, 1985). FFC supports higher education by promoting self-determination on campuses through fraternal structure and operations.
- Educating college administrators about the importance of fraternity membership in terms of student engagement, happiness, retention, and academic success (Debard & Sacks, 2010; Gathercoale, 2019; Glass, 2012; Nelson, S., Halperin, S., Wasserman, T., Smith, C., and Graham, P., 2006; Rullman, 2002) and using those facts to encourage the elimination of deferred recruitment. As consistent with the theory of self-determination, individual adult males attending colleges and universities in this country developmentally advance when able to join a fraternity should they choose.

In the end, we are all working to accomplish the same mission: to help develop well-rounded, intellectually-curious, community-minded young men who will be a credit to their families, communities, alma maters and fraternities for generations to come.

*Debard, R., & Sacks, C. (June 2010). Fraternity/sorority membership: good news about first-year impact. Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors, 5(1),*

*Deci, E. L., & Ryan, R. M. (1985). Intrinsic motivation and self-determination in human behavior. New York, NY: Plenum.*

