UO Panhellenic Community:

We hope you are staying safe and healthy in these unique and unprecedented times. Panhellenic Council and the University of Oregon Fraternity and Sorority Life team have been working diligently to determine what recruitment activities could look like for the Fall 2020 term. Given this, we wanted to provide an update on these efforts to all of you, and provide some direction in your planning. We have identified and will outline below what we feel is the most viable option. It is important to note that this plan and its implementation are contingent upon a number of factors that are subject to change. The COVID-19 pandemic has required a great deal of flexibility from us all, and we ask for your patience, grace, and understanding as we work to plan and execute recruitment within this challenging and unique context.

In anticipating changes that would be necessitated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) convened an NPC Recruitment Contingencies Task Force. This task force included campus-based professionals; member organization staff, including an executive director; volunteers from NPC’s Panhellenic Recruitment and Panhellenic Release Figure Methodology (RFM) Committees and other experts from across the fraternity and sorority industry. This Task Force outlined five recruitment contingency scenarios in addition to making recruitment legislation changes. This document is the primary source that establishes guidelines for the upcoming recruitment period for all College Panhellenic chapters. As such, we would encourage you to review all five recruitment scenarios, and legislation changes in the attached NPC Recruitment Contingencies Task Force Report for College Panhellenics.

For a campus of our size and recruitment style, the Task Force report suggests a recruitment structure for Fall 2020 that includes three virtual rounds and one in-person round (Preference). After reviewing the report, conferring with other fraternity and sorority life professionals across the country, and University of Oregon officials, The University of Oregon Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life recommends that the University of Oregon Panhellenic adopt these guidelines for the fall recruiting period. Details about this suggested structure can be found in the report on pages 14-15 under “A Fully Structured Recruitment (FSR) Hosted With Social Distancing Guidelines in Place (A Hybrid Model of Virtual and In-Person).” Attached to this email you will find a copy of this recruitment plan for UO; Panhellenic Recruitment Plan A.

It is important to note, that while the structure mentioned above is our preference, and this is what we are planning for this point, this will remain contingent upon guidance and rules from the State of Oregon, Lane County Health Authority, and University of Oregon policies and procedures. If it becomes apparent that state or local guidance or UO policies eliminate the possibility for an in-person event, we will shift to a completely virtual recruitment. If this seems like a possibility, we will communicate this to you as soon as it appears that this is the direction we will need to go. The Task Force report contains information about a completely virtual recruitment option on pages 12 and 13, and the UO virtual recruitment plan is attached; Panhellenic Recruitment Plan B. As we are able to make more definitive plans regarding utilizing camps space, we will follow up with specific information and details about what the in-person preference round will look like.
In an effort to create a safe experience for all involved, we elected to proceed with this option. We know this may not be how you hoped recruitment would look or be experienced. We understand that this is a shift for our community in what has always been done. To be clear, based on existing limitations and restrictions, running recruitment how it has been run in the past was simply not an option this year. As mentioned previously, the COVID-19 Pandemic has required flexibility and different approaches to planning and executing a number of initiatives; recruitment is one such initiative. Our desire is to ensure that we are able to host recruitment and welcome women into sisterhood, service, and development that is associated with membership in a sorority. We felt that moving to host recruitment in this way would put us in the best position to be able to facilitate this.

The College Panhellenic Council (PHC) will keep you apprised of the communications and details they receive from the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) including support resources, electronic platforms to host recruitment on, etc. as they become available. Additionally, many inter/national organizations have already pledged new resources and support to their chapters for this upcoming recruitment period as well, so please communicate regularly with your inter/national organization for the most support possible.

We know that there may be questions that you all have. While we may not have all the answers, we are more than willing to be available for questions and comments. To facilitate an opportunity for conversation, we would like to invite all who are interested to attend the upcoming Panhellenic Delegates meeting. Fraternity and Sorority Life staff will be available to respond to questions and inquiries. This meeting will take place on Thursday, June 25th at 6 pm. You can attend the meeting on Zoom at https://uoregon.zoom.us/j/287885348.

If you need additional information regarding the University of Oregon’s efforts and resources surrounding COVID-19, please visit https://www.uoregon.edu/coronavirus. Any updates or resources will be posted and sent to students in the UO’s daily email. Additionally, you also have the Fraternity and Sorority Life office as a resource which can be contacted at gogreek@uoregon.edu and although working remotely, are still a support system to your college experience.

Thank you,

Marcus R. Langford  
Associate Dean of Students

Caitlin Roberts  
Director, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life