Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
June 15, 2010

SUBJECT: Regulation FGCU-PR4.009 Social Fraternities and Sororities

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve Regulation FGCU-PR4.009

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Social fraternities and sororities have a unique role on university campuses, as they have well connected national organizations and alumni organizations, affiliations with national coordinating organizations and have limited membership based on gender. While federal law prohibits discrimination based on gender, Title 26 USC Section 1681 provides an exemption for, among other organizations, social fraternities and sororities. Therefore these organizations are permitted to remain on campus as single sex organizations.

In order to appropriately register and recognize only those single sex organizations that qualify for this exemption, the university seeks to establish this regulation that identifies the criteria and processes it will use to determine eligibility for recognition as a social fraternity or sorority.

Supporting Documentation Included: Regulation FGCU-PR4.009 Social Fraternities and Sororities

Prepared by: Assistant General Counsel David Greenbaum

Legal Review by: General Counsel Vee Leonard (May 14, 2010)

Submitted by: Vice President for Student Affairs Mike Rollo
REGULATION TITLE:
Social Fraternities and Sororities

REGULATION NO.:
FGCU-PR4.009

SUMMARY:
Regulation FGCU-PR4.009 addresses the creation and recognition of social fraternities and sororities at the University.

FULL TEXT:
The full text of the regulation being proposed is attached and can also be found at http://www.fgcu.edu/generalcounsel/promulgation.asp

LAW IMPLEMENTED:
BOG Regulation 6.010 Student Affairs Administration

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL INITIATING THE PROPOSED REVISED REGULATION:
Dr. J. Michael Rollo, Vice President for Student Affairs

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL APPROVING THE PROPOSED REGULATION:
Dr. J. Michael Rollo, Vice President for Student Affairs

PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATION:
Diane St. John, Administrative Assistant, dstjohn@fgcu.edu; 239.590.7466 (Phone), 239.590.7470 (Facsimile); 10501 FGCU Blvd. S, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565.

ANY COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING ON OR BEFORE May 28, 2010 BY 5:00 P.M. THE COMMENTS MUST IDENTIFY THE REGULATION ON WHICH YOU ARE COMMENTING.

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED ON THE FGCU WEBSITE ON: MAY 14, 2010.
A. Federal law provides that no educational program or activity may discriminate on the basis of sex. However, social sororities and fraternities are expressly exempted from this requirement by federal law (20 USC Section 1681), provided that the social fraternity or sorority:

1. Is exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of Title 26; and

2. The active membership consists primarily of students in attendance at an institution of higher education.

B. A social fraternity or sorority is an organization which does not:

1. Limit membership to persons pursuing or having interest in a particular field of study, profession or academic discipline;

2. Serve as an honorary society for academic, leadership, or any other endeavor; or

3. Permit members to hold membership in other social sororities or fraternities.

C. In addition to the requirements for registered student organizations provided for in FGCU-PR4.005, an organization submitting an application to be registered as a social fraternity or sorority must:

1. Hold an affiliation with a national social fraternity or sorority;

2. Limit membership to currently enrolled students of the University; and

3. Meet the requirements to be exempt from the requirements of 20 USC Section 1681, described above.

Notwithstanding FGCU-PR4.005(2), an organization registered by the University as a social fraternity or sorority may limit its membership to a single sex.
D. The Vice-President for Student Affairs, or designee, is authorized to register social sororities and fraternities. The Vice-President for Student Affairs, or designee, may establish policies to implement a process for recognizing social sororities and fraternities. The Vice-President for Student Affairs, or designee, may also establish policies to implement an expansion process for the social fraternity and sorority community. This expansion process must include the participation by at least one Greek governing body. A participating member of a social sorority or fraternity and the Greek organization itself, must be in good standing with the University.

E. A social fraternity or sorority registered with the University must be an active member of a Greek governing body, such as either the Interfraternity Council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the Panhellenic Association or any subsequently registered Social Fraternity or Sorority governing body at Florida Gulf Coast University to remain in good standing.

Action by Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees:
Approved

BOGRegulation 6.010Student Affairs Administration

Law Implemented:
Title 20 USC Section 1681

History of Regulation
New

Effective Date of Regulation: