



Fraternity and Sorority Life

FSL Programming and Support Contribution Process



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Programming and Support Contribution

Executive Summary

Michigan State University hosts approximately 55 organizations (chapters, councils, houses), 5,000 members, 600 student officers, thousands of alumni, advisors, and volunteers and 63 independently owned chapter facilities. Nationally, fraternities and sororities positively support retention, persistence, and other student success metrics. While fraternity and sorority academics trend higher than Michigan State overall averages, with more staff support, we could better support the university's priorities.

Supporting Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) organizations, which have a higher risk profile, legacy/affinity connection, and overall impact on the campus community requires the investment of additional time, expertise, and resources. While the MSU FSL Community has one of the oldest communities (153 years) and a community of over 5000 students, we also have the smallest professional staff team in the Big 10 (14th out of 14 institutions). Despite numerous requests for additional staff support and resources through general fund processes, none have been secured. Meanwhile, Big 10 peer institutions have drastically increased staff and funding to support the significant need within the FSL portfolio.

To meet the increasing staff and financial needs of the FSL Community, a contribution amount will be assessed to all student members of FSL organizations, which would be allocated to the operation account for the Fraternity and Sorority Life office. This contribution will be charged to individual students' accounts. The funds will be used towards educational programs, leadership development opportunities, prevention and wellness programming and staff support. The FSL Programming and Support revenue stream would also create opportunities for stronger long-term partnerships and planning and decrease the community's dependence on ASMSU and other departmental funding requests.

Programming and Support Contribution Information:

- Amount billed to each semester to student account: \$50
- Oversight will be provided by: Director, Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Assessed during the **fall and spring** semesters



Context

Michigan State University hosts approximately 55 organizations (chapters, councils, houses), 5,000 members, 600 student officers, thousands of alumni, advisors, and volunteers and 63 independently owned chapter facilities. Nationally, fraternities and sororities positively support retention, persistence, and other student success metrics. While fraternity and sorority academics trend higher than Michigan State overall averages, with more staff support, we could better support the university's priorities.

Supporting Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) organizations, which have a higher risk profile, legacy/affinity connection, and overall impact on the campus community, requires the investment of additional time, expertise, and resources. While the MSU FSL Community has one of the oldest communities (153 years) and a community of over 5000 students, we also have the smallest professional staff team in the Big 10 (14th out of 14 institutions). Despite numerous requests for additional staff support and resources through general fund processes, none have been secured. Meanwhile, Big 10 peer institutions have drastically increased staff and funding to support the significant need within the FSL portfolio.

To meet the increasing staff and financial needs of the FSL Community, a student contribution will be assessed to all student members of FSL organizations, which would be allocated to the FSL department. This contribution will be charged to individual students' accounts. The funds will be used towards educational programs, leadership development opportunities, prevention and wellness programming and staff support. The FSL Programming and Support Contribution revenue stream would also create opportunities for stronger long-term partnerships and planning, and decrease the community's dependence on ASMSU and other departmental funding requests.

FSL organizations regularly host events (many with alcohol, minors, non-university individuals), occupy residential facilities, engage in travel, manage large financial operations, and host processes (such as initiation/new member education) that require additional knowledge, skills, and oversight to be successful over an extended period. Therefore, the primary justification for this contribution is: 1) increase in time, expertise and engagement demands for university staff; 2) Student leaders and organization volunteers need more support from university staff; 3) Student behavioral trends associated with health, safety, and well-being are becoming more problematic.

The data suggests the issues affecting students have become more complex and require additional expertise, training and professional intervention than was necessary a decade ago. Furthermore, the FSL Community has observed a trend in which the academic performance of men has not kept pace with their female counterparts. This is, in part, due to a need for more targeted academic support for our fraternal organizations.

The support and resources we need to address the complexities of our FSL community do not currently exist mostly due to financial roadblocks. The funding model we will be using will parallel the level of staffing, technology, etc. needed to create effective and sustainable ways to address:

- Increased Staffing in Fraternity/Sorority Life
- Technology and Communication Updates
- Education and Training
- Academic support and development
- Health, Safety, and Well-being
- New Member Recruitment and Intake oversight



Contribution Information

- This Fraternity and Sorority Life Programming and Support Contribution is an expectation for all members. Fraternities and sororities receive additional benefits and support from the university beyond other student organizations. Therefore, to both maintain and expand these resources, it is necessary that monetary support be provided.
- There are situations where members are facing financial hardship or have other specific, extenuating circumstances or needs that may impact their ability to pay the contribution. In these instances, members of the FSL Community may submit a request for a FSL Programming and Support Contribution Waiver.
- All members will be assessed \$50 semesterly in the fall and spring semesters.

Oversight Provided by:

- Director, Fraternity and Sorority Life



Understanding the Fraternity and Sorority Life Programming and Support Contribution

Fraternity and Sorority Life at Michigan State University will be assessing a Programming and Support Contribution to individual members of all officially recognized Fraternity and Sorority organizations on campus. This contribution will be charged to individual students' accounts.

Contribution Amount and Assessment

- Members of fraternity and sorority community will be charged \$50/semester
- The contribution will be assessed to each semester and applied to student accounts.
- This contribution is an expectation for all members. It will support costs associated with office operation, staffing, programming, education and training.

Why is contribution being charged to my student account?

- In years prior, FSL Governing Councils would collect a fee (this varied for each council) from each chapter. Fraternity and Sorority Life would then issue an invoice to each council. This process was reliant on timely payment of those dues to pay for advising support and assistance, leadership development programs, and general office operation needs. By electronically administering this process, we can ensure more timely payment of fees, ensure an accurate accounting of the funds meant for office support and remove the need for FSL staff to create and manage the payment of invoices. With this new process, individual students will be assessed instead of the councils and that funding will go directly to the university account for FSL operations. The office is committed to being transparent by tracking the use of these funds internally and sharing how these funds are spent annually with the campus and community stakeholders.





Fraternity and Sorority Life

What should I do if I cannot afford the Fraternity and Sorority Programming Contribution?

- FSL understands that there are situations where members are facing financial hardship, have other specific, extenuating circumstances or needs that may impact their ability to pay the FSL contribution. In these instances, members of the fraternity and sorority community may submit a request for an FSL Contribution Waiver.
- FSL Programming Contribution Waiver Requests must be submitted by the following deadlines in order to be considered:
 - October 1st: Fall
 - March 1st – Spring
- Waiver applicants will be notified via email after the committee has reviewed their application and reached a final decision. Please note that all contribution waiver requests may not be granted.
- The waiver will be provided processed through Involve@State



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Financial Aid Process

So that the FSL Programming and Support Contribution can be added to student accounts, the following will be adhered to:

Adding Charge to Student Account:

Fraternity and Sorority staff will send chapter rosters to Financial Aid. Each roster will include the information below:

- Chapter Name
- Amount to be billed to the individuals on each roster
- Student names
- Student ID number

Questions and Concerns

Any questions regarding the FSL Programming and Support Contribution can be forwarded to Fraternity and Sorority Life: fsl@sle.msu.edu

Fee Requirement Understanding

Michigan State University Fraternity and Sorority Life Programming and Support Contribution

Programming Contribution Student Agreement

By joining a fraternity or sorority, you are acknowledging your understanding of and agreement to the following Terms and Conditions. Please read carefully.

Participation in a fraternity or sorority is optional and remains a choice of the student. As such, by agreeing to become or remain a member of a fraternity or sorority, you agree to pay the programming and support contribution assessed to all students. The programming and support contribution is assessed each semester and applied to your student account. Please review the Billing Policies and Procedures from the Financial Aid and Registrar's Office to understand financial responsibilities and processes.