Sorority and fraternity life requires a university mission and vision to facilitate its success. This mission and vision will guide the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life and other departments that work closely with sororities and fraternities. It will also provide clear direction for the Greek Life Task Force (GLTF) to develop a strategic plan. Our goal is to enhance and create best practices for Emory sorority and fraternity life. All sorority and fraternity chapters will operate as a community of practice with a shared set of principles consistent with Emory’s vision and mission. As a community of practice, the sorority and fraternity chapters will be uniquely positioned to address challenges facing the community on both local and national levels.

Community of practice principles include academic engagement, accountability, civic engagement, cultural humility, inclusion, integrity, leadership, self-governance, and unity.

**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE PRINCIPLES**

- **academic engagement**: build relationships that enable knowledge creation and sharing
- **accountability**: foster collective responsibility for the actions of community members and organizations
- **civic engagement**: promote the quality of life in the community both at Emory and beyond
- **cultural humility**: encourage self-reflection and self-critique that leads to greater polycultural understanding
- **inclusion**: treat all members of the Emory community with respect, host collaborative university-wide events, encourage diverse opinions within the chapter, promote new ways of knowing and understanding throughout the university community, welcome students of all backgrounds
- **integrity**: act with authenticity and take responsibility for actions
- **leadership**: develop individuals who foster positive change in their community and the world
- **self-governance**: empower students to develop a shared repertoire of tools to apply to systemic issues in the community
- **unity**: cultivate equal rights and responsibilities, and strong sisterhood and brotherhood to create an environment of respect, support, and accountability that encourages each member to work toward a community of practice
Each sorority and fraternity chapter must also be provided opportunities to cultivate their unique identity based on tradition and organizational purpose.

The current challenges facing sororities and fraternities at Emory have created a paternalistic relationship between the university and students. Our goal is to create a stronger model of student self-governance and accountability for sororities and fraternities consistent with how other student organizations at Emory operate.

In addition to serving the community, sororities and fraternities serve their sisters and brothers. Self-interest is an integral part of the membership experience; however, sororities and fraternities exist in an interdependent world. Sororities and fraternities should balance self-interest with the needs of the university community by exercising leadership through cooperation and creating new structures and mechanisms to become part of the fabric of Emory.

Several chapters are currently suspended. Since the guiding principles attempt to establish a new paradigm for the entire community, currently suspended groups can be invited to return provided they ascribe to the principles of the community of practice and any other stipulations to ensure the future success of the chapter.

Although housing is only one of many issues confronting the sorority and fraternity community, the complexities of the issue require thorough review. The following principles provide guidance for the taskforce:

a. Sororities and fraternities should have a strong presence on Eagle Row.

b. While recognizing the unique qualities of sororities and fraternities, all Eagle Row residential communities should be afforded the same rights and privileges as our other residential communities. Specifically, the Eagle Row residential community should contribute to the intellectual life of the university, receive academic and personal support provided by the university, and create an intimate atmosphere of a liberal arts college within a large university.

c. All non-residential sorority and fraternity chapters should also contribute to the intellectual life of the university, receive academic and personal support from the university, and promote the principles of Emory sorority and fraternity life.

d. The Phoenix Plan must be updated to reflect the mission, vision, and principles of the community. However, we must honor the contract currently in place for those chapters in good standing under the Phoenix Plan.

e. The sorority and fraternity community is diverse in organization needs and desires. Not all chapters desire a house, lodge, and/or traditional residential space.

f. Not all chapters have the ability to sustain housing occupancy.

g. Chapters that desire housing should have opportunities to obtain it in a fair and consistent manner.

h. Housing for sororities and fraternities is important, but it should not define success. A myriad of factors influence the success of a sorority or fraternity chapter.

i. Housing on Eagle Row is a privilege, not an entitlement or a right.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

FEBRUARY

29 • Began meetings with members of EPC, IFC, MGC, and NPHC to discuss GLTF process, preliminary report, next steps, and requested feedback.

22 • Finalized *Principles of the Emory GLTF* shared with GLTF (and other stakeholders) as the document that will guide edits and finalization of the GLTF strategic plan.

15 • Began disseminating *Principles of the Emory GLTF* with all members of the GLTF for review and feedback. Requested groups from January 30 communication continue to disseminate the preliminary report for feedback.

12 • Began drafting *Principles of the Emory GLTF* in response to Board of Trustees Campus Life committee feedback.

11 • Met with the Board of Trustees Campus Life committee to engage in dialogue and solicit feedback.

8 • Conducted conference call with members of the OSFL Advisory Board, Housing Committee chairs to discuss opportunities and process for feedback on preliminary report.

JANUARY

31 • Began receiving feedback from community members via online link.

30 • Began disseminating preliminary report/recommendations to stakeholders requesting feedback and additional sharing (with their stakeholders) including:
   • GLTF members and its committee members
   • Board of Trustees Campus Life committee
   • OSFL Advisory Board
   • Residence Hall Association
   • Greek Life Council presidents and chapter presidents
   • Campus Life Executive Leadership Team