



To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Panhellenic community, I would like to welcome you all to this new school year at UC Berkeley. As our Panhellenic community prepares for this week's Fall Primary Recruitment, I wanted to remind the student body of the Panhellenic Council's present commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion within our community. Our community acknowledges that historically our organizations have grappled with issues surrounding diversity and systemic exclusivity, and we recognize that we still do. Due to this, the Panhellenic Council has continuously prioritized creating a space inclusive to all, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, mental health, physical ability, gender and/or sexual orientation.

Three years ago, our community created a Panhellenic Executive Council position, the VP of Community Development, to focus on these critical areas within the Panhellenic community; since then, this position has expanded diversity and inclusion efforts in all of our organizations. Further, each Panhellenic chapter now has a Community Development representative. The Community Development representative, essentially, is accountable for ensuring their organization receives chapter specific Community Development education each semester and this position has become a key resource for our community's diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Last year, our Panhellenic community eliminated the antiquated transphobic language within our recruitment rules, so that our chapters would be able to welcome anyone with the spirit of a woman to go through our recruitment process. I'm proud to say that ten of the thirteen Panhellenic chapters will extend membership to both cisgender and transgender women. This is a huge improvement, as last year only five of our thirteen Panhellenic chapters extended membership to transgender women.

Just this week, the Panhellenic Executive Council visited every chapter to give a diversity and inclusion presentation. Our presentation focused on implicit bias and inclusive language, with respect to race, socioeconomic status, mental health, physical ability, gender and sexual orientation. Further, I'm extremely excited to inform you that potential new members have received education during their recruitment orientation on implicit bias for the first time in the history of Berkeley Panhellenic.

Additionally, each of the thirteen sorority chapters participating in Fall Primary Recruitment have created accessibility plans for potential new members with physical limitations or differing abilities. The accessibility plans ensure that these potential new members can not only participate in Fall Primary Recruitment, but also feel welcomed and included in our community.

If during your Greek experience, you ever feel concern regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion within our community, I encourage you to contact myself, the Panhellenic advisor, any member of the executive council, or any recruitment counselor.

Although we recognize our community has a long way to go, we are proud of the progress our community has made thus far and will continue our efforts to make this space a safe, inclusive, accessible atmosphere for all.

Signed,
Kimberly Cowderoy, Panhellenic President

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Campus Resources (for a full list, please visit <http://www.calphc.com/diversity-inclusion>)

Multicultural Community Center: <http://mcc.berkeley.edu/>

Gender Equity Resource Center: <http://geneq.berkeley.edu/>

Disabled Students' Program: <http://dsp.berkeley.edu/>