

UC Berkeley Panhellenic Council
Statement re: diversity/inclusion
Summer 2017

It has been brought to the attention of the CalGreeks community that certain internet forums not affiliated with the university are being used as platforms to discuss the participation of students from diverse backgrounds and identities in sorority and fraternity groups. The Panhellenic Council condemns such acts of discrimination in every forum as they do not in any way reflect the values of the CalGreeks community nor those of the University of California, Berkeley.

We advocate zero tolerance for hateful speech or behavior in this community. We embrace diversity and by no means do we welcome hateful or hurtful words that serve no purpose but to tear others down. Should the identity of individuals conducting themselves in this way become known, actions will be taken by our standards board and it will be requested that their affiliate chapter evaluate the status of their membership.

I speak on behalf of the entire Panhellenic community when I acknowledge that our organizations have historically experienced and continue to experience extremely problematic issues regarding lacking diversity and systematic exclusivity. It would be an injustice to every community member to deny the existence of such issues; it is necessary to be critical of the Greek community in order for it to improve. For many semesters, the Panhellenic council has been working with its own members, other councils, and the university to identify and address the major problems that we face. The council and the chapters have thoroughly developed positions and educational objectives that emphasize community development and work toward fostering an inclusive and diverse environment. Nevertheless, our work is not done.

This community prides itself on values of compassion, acceptance, and the enrichment of the lives of others, and when such values are abused or faulted it is not only a disservice to those affected but an unignorable demand for the community to find ways to make substantial, well-grounded change from within. The intent of the formal recruitment process is to seek out individuals who will positively impact the lives of others, and vice versa. This is only possible when people of every identity are present and know that they are absolutely vital and valued entirely. When this is not the case, we are not doing our job.

The Berkeley community at large holds itself accountable to pursuing equity and social justice, and the CalGreeks community is no exception to this. We will continue striving to operate in ways that productively and effectively create space for every individual to feel valued and respected. There is no room for discrimination in this community, despite some of the harmful behavior that has historically existed in these spaces. There is no room for judgement or discrimination based on skin color, sexual preference, body type/physical ability, gender identity, cultural background, financial capacity, religious beliefs, or any other identity that has been subject to underrepresentation, intolerance, or oppression.

If ever during the recruitment process, or in your overall Greek experience, you are facing or are concerned about anything regarding the unfair treatment of another person, I encourage you to utilize any of the following resources listed below and/or contact myself, the Panhellenic advisor, any member of the executive board, or any recruitment counselor.

Signed,
Summer Collins, Panhellenic President

Executive Board

Summer Collins - President
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Jill Koopman - Vice President of Philanthropy
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Panhellenic Advisor

Jackie Gardner, jackie.gardner@berkeley.edu

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/>