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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Greek Life Program Adopts New Party Registration Policy

Limitations on duration of parties and alcohol availability among new rules

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly fraternities and sororities have developed and adopted a new party registration policy that will, among other regulations, limit party times, locations and duration and curb dangerous drinking games at Greek Life gatherings.

The policy, which received approval from Cal Poly's Student Affairs Division on Wednesday, takes effect immediately.

"Our Greek Life students created this policy. They wrote every draft, and university administration approved it only after the fraternities and sororities themselves agreed on it," said Keith Humphrey, Cal Poly's vice president for student affairs. "We believe this is an important new tool in helping our students maintain their own health and well-being and develop good neighbor and community relations."

Among its regulations, the policy limits the days and times when fraternity and sorority parties may be held and caps their duration at five hours. Underage drinking is also banned, and party hosts must develop a wristband system to prevent drinking by those under 21. The policy reinforces a ban on hard alcohol, kegs and other large-volume containers (which are already disallowed by a new risk management policy the Greek Life organizations adopted in Fall 2013). Shots, drinking games and other potentially dangerous activities are also prohibited.

The policy requires that all parties of 100 or more guests be registered 10 days in advance and all parties of fewer than 100 be registered five days in advance. A guest list must be submitted for each party 24 hours before the event.

The policy also lays out punishments for organizations that fail to register their parties and abide by the new rules. The first two offenses would lead to a written warning and a student Greek judicial council meeting, respectively. Subsequent offenses will lead to immediate social probation. In all cases, the judicial council and Dean of Students Office would review and could issue additional sanctions based on the nature of each infraction.

The approval Wednesday ends a month-long social probation — a suspension on all Greek Life gatherings — instituted after the fraternities and sororities were unable to agree on a new policy by the start of Cal Poly's Winter 2014 quarter.

That deadline and the creation of the registration policy were part of a list of new governance policies the university and Greek Life organizations agreed to in June 2013. In exchange for abolishing a deferred rush policy that kept freshman males from rushing fraternities during their first quarter at the university, Greek Life organizations agreed to implement several new policies and procedures — all aimed at enhancing the health and well-being of students — in phases over the next three years.

Other new policies will require additional health and wellness programs, create a

student-run review process for fraternities and sororities, and establish additional chapters at the university to give students the option of joining smaller organizations.

The new party registration policy is available online at http://studentlife.calpoly.edu/greek/info_resources/policies.asp.

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