

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 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.

Five 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. Each year a Climate Survey is sent out to each chapter to gain greater insight on the challenges we face as a community and helps us to generate dialogue within the chapters on what our members are going through. Further, each Panhellenic chapter 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 especially during recruitment.

Three years ago, 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 twelve of the thirteen Panhellenic chapters will extend membership to both cisgender and transgender women.

During pre-recruitment, the Panhellenic Executive Council will visit every chapter to give a diversity and inclusion presentation. Our presentation focuses on implicit bias and inclusive language, with respect to race, socioeconomic status, mental health, physical ability, gender and sexual orientation. While our chapters will receive additional training, I am excited to share that potential new members will also receive education during their recruitment orientation on implicit bias, which is something that is emphasized annually in 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 concerned 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,
Camellia Edalat, 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>