

Status of Integration of the UA Greek System Fall 2002

- The University of Alabama does not track race in its statistics concerning the Greek system. Over the years, there have been references to a traditionally white fraternity that had an African-American member, but that has not been officially documented. There have been white members of traditionally black fraternities on campus.
- In the fall of 2001, two biracial young women came forward to say that they had pledged traditionally white sororities at UA in the past.
- A new fraternity, Lambda Sigma Phi, pledged its first African-American member in November 2001. Two African-American students are now members of this fraternity and more may join this fall. A new organization on campus, the fraternity is currently going through the process to join the Interfraternity Council.
- A new multi-cultural sorority has been formed by a diverse group of young women. Thirty students expressed interest in being a part of this group and participated in Spring activities. The group is actively recruiting additional members and they will move into their sorority house this fall. The group is considering their options for joining one of several national sororities and will start interviewing national groups the last of August. (Melody Twilley is a member of this organization.)
- Sorority and fraternity rush at UA was moved from mid-August until late August/early September in 2000. The change moved rush from occurring prior to the start of fall semester classes to a date two weeks into the semester. (This is known as delayed rush.)
- This and other changes were made after three years of consideration by several groups, all representative of the entire University community. These included the Task Force on the First-Year Experience, the Greek Diversity Task Force and the Rush Task Force.
- The advantages of delayed rush include:
 - Allows entering freshmen an opportunity to explore options for campus involvement after acclimating to their residences, class schedules and other responsibilities.
 - Time for fraternity and sorority members to meet and get to know prospective members prior to the membership recruitment process.
 - Allows new students from other regions of the country to participate.
 - A simpler schedule with less elaborate entertainment plans. The weekend schedule is planned to minimize disruption of academics.
- These changes are part of overall efforts to help foster diversity and a more welcoming environment for all students in UA's Greek system. Other efforts include:
 - Regular meetings of the student presidents of the three governing councils – Interfraternity Council (IFC), National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) and National Panhellenic Council (the national organization for historically black sororities and fraternities) – and a joint publication published by these three organizations for incoming students.
 - Increased emphasis on second semester (spring) rush, including a joint convocation hosted by the three governing councils.

- The National Pan-hellenic Council is not involved in fall rush because their national organizations require students to have attained a college GPA for at least one semester before joining. For that reason, they cannot accept new members until at least the second semester.