



June 16, 2017

PRIVILEGED DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION

To Executive Committee, City of Toronto

Re: EX26.45 Licensing Exemption for Fraternities and Sororities

As the Executive Committee considers a motion to review and report back on an exemption applicable to fraternities and sororities, it may be helpful to provide some background regarding the fact that the University of Toronto does not have any relationship with, and does not recognize fraternities and sororities.

Fraternities and sororities are not eligible for recognition by the University of Toronto pursuant to two independent frameworks: 1) a 1960 Statement on Fraternities by the Caput of the University of Toronto; and 2) the Policy on the Recognition of Campus Groups (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/camgroup.htm>).

Pursuant to a statement issued by the Caput of the University of Toronto in 1960, fraternities and sororities are not eligible for recognition by the University. This statement indicates that “in no sense are fraternities recognized by the University of Toronto as bodies entitled to any University privilege.” Additionally, the *Policy on the Recognition of Campus Groups* provides that eligibility for University recognition is limited to organizations which meet the requirements of the Policy including the obligation that membership be open to any member of the University community (including all students, staff, faculty, and alumni). Fraternities and sororities do not meet these requirements. Indeed, we understand that many of the individuals residing in these fraternity and sorority houses are not University of Toronto students.

The University strives to instill a deep sense of civic engagement and pride among its students, and aims to provide our students with a wide breadth of curricular and co-curricular opportunities to develop this sense of engagement and citizenry. Our hope is that these traits carry with our students beyond the borders of the University.

The University shares the local community’s desire for safe, livable neighbourhoods.

I trust this is helpful for your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Sandy Welsh
Vice Provost, Students