



How the College Panhellenic Can Support Continuous Open Bidding and Community Growth

The role of the College Panhellenic in continuous open bidding (COB) is to market the opportunity, including sharing information with potential new members (PNMs) about the Panhellenic chapters on campus and providing resources to the chapters as requested. College Panhellenics will not regulate chapters' individual processes to recruit PNMs during COB. The chapters will work with their inter/national organizations to determine the best timing and method for recruiting PNMs in a COB process.

Continuous Open Bidding (2022, 2023) – POLICY

Continuous open bidding (COB) is not intended to precede or take the place of the primary membership recruitment period, nor should there be a COB process prior to the start of fall primary membership recruitment. Likewise, no COB process should occur during the period at the start of the term until total is determined and announced.

The purpose of COB is to enable those chapters that did not pledge to quota or pledged quota but did not reach total to pledge additional new members immediately following the primary membership recruitment period. The intent of COB is to provide maximum opportunities for membership to the greatest number of chapters possible and the greatest number of women who are eligible to join a sorority. The College Panhellenic, therefore, will not place restrictions on the COB process, which may include (but is not limited to) designated COB dates, schedules and bid distribution. The chapters will work with their inter/national organizations to determine the best timing and method for recruitment of potential new members in a COB process.

On campuses with deferred (spring primary) membership recruitment, any COB prior to the scheduled primary membership recruitment period should be limited to upperclass and transfer women. First-year women should not attend these recruitment functions. COB would not be open to first-year women until after the primary membership recruitment period.

How can the Panhellenic Help Support Growth?

- **All chapters should know total** and the number of spots they have available, and the College Panhellenic should set total at a number that allows growth for the community.
- **Do not restrict the COB process**, including but not limited to managing schedules, events and bid distribution.
- **Have a marketing plan!** Designate an officer to monitor and promote year-round joining opportunities to unaffiliated women on your campus. Chapters should inform the college Panhellenic of their events planned so that the Panhellenic marketing officer can promote them on social media.
- Maintain a database of interested women for chapters conducting COB and **distribute the information** of interested women to participating chapters.
- **There is no right or wrong way to COB.** Chapters should consult with their local and inter/national volunteers and headquarters for guidance on COB policies and procedures.
- Maintain a list of ineligible women on campus, including women who are initiated members of an NPC organization but are no longer affiliated and women who have signed MRABAs since the last primary recruitment.
- The College Panhellenic should **not require grade checks for PNMs during COB.**
- **Distribute the COB MRABA**, which can be found in the NPC Manual of Information [here](#). Once an MRABA is signed, the chapter should submit a copy to the Panhellenic office.
- A chapter may **welcome new members every time** they are below total, even if that is more than once a term!



Consider the following student services departments or affinity organizations for networking, marketing and programming opportunities to ensure all women can learn about the sorority experience and joining opportunities:

- Transfer student orientation.
- Commuter student services.
- First-generation student organizations.
- International student services and organizations.
- Upperclass-focused campus areas.

*This is not an exhaustive or all-inclusive list. Panhellenic and chapter recruitment chairs can collaborate on the best ways to reach all women on their campus.

How can the College Panhellenic or Chapters Reach Unaffiliated Women?

- Campus events hosted by departments, athletics and student organizations
- Classes
- Faculty/staff recommendations
- In residence halls
- List of unaffiliated women from the fraternity/sorority advisor
- Member and alumnae networks
- Names of women who withdrew from recruitment or did not receive a bid during primary recruitment
- On-Campus involvement fairs
- Open sisterhood events
- Other student organizations
- President's or dean's list
- Social media or networking apps
- Through work, volunteering or internships

What Types of Activities are Ideal for COB?

- Coffee dates or casual meals
- Game nights
- Health and well-being activities
- Host an event to learn a new hobby
- Host a watch party for movie, TV show or athletic event
- Pre-planned campus events

Remember, the College Panhellenic should support chapters and PNMs finding each other. That is the ultimate goal.