CHAPTER 1: MEMBERSHIP

1.1 Membership in COUCH. Any person who makes primary residence or boards in a House owned or rented by COUCH, or who boards with a regular meal group sponsored by COUCH, or is an Associate house representative on the COUCH board, shall be considered a member of COUCH. During the period of a Provisional Board, as described in section 3.13 of these Bylaws, the Board of Directors may admit individual members not making primary residence or boarding in a House owned or rented by COUCH or boarding with a COUCH meal group.
1.2 Admitting new members. The Board of Directors shall establish regulations and provide procedures for admitting new members by means of a membership contract, and for terminating membership. There shall be no discrimination based on race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, class, age, national origin, cultural identity, spirituality or religious affiliation, physical or mental ability, disease status, marital status, family structure, socioeconomic status, educational status, or other factors not relevant to successful participation in a cooperative community, in the admission of new members or in the termination of membership. Each new member shall pay a membership fee, the amount of which shall be fixed by the Board of Directors. Each new member not previously a member of the North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO), shall pay an additional one-time membership fee as determined by NASCO.
1.3 Termination of membership. The Board of Directors may terminate, or provide procedures for the termination of the membership of any person violating any provisions of his or her membership contract. No person's membership shall be terminated except after a hearing open to the membership of COUCH.[1]
1.4 Associate Houses. Cooperative Houses not rented or owned by COUCH may, with the approval of the Board of Directors, become Associate Houses of COUCH. Members of Associate Houses are not members of COUCH, unless individually admitted by the Board of Directors during the period of a provisional board, or elected by the house as a Provisional Co-op Representative. Such members shall pay a membership fee as described in section 1.2. Cooperative Houses may wish to join COUCH to assist in recruiting members, to form an official association for the purpose of future rental or purchase by COUCH, or to receive services that COUCH may offer to its member houses.

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this process sounds more official than what I have heard people discuss so far. sounds sensible maybe?