



# The Constitution of The Interfraternity Council



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

*(Revised October 19, 2016)*

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## **Preamble**

We, the representative members of the fraternity community at The Ohio State University, in order to promote the betterment of our member organizations and to adhere to the fundamental founding principles of all fraternities, including scholarship, civic engagement, leadership and personal development, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution. Accordingly, we grant and delegate to this organization such powers and responsibilities as necessary to uphold this Constitution.

## **Article I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be The Interfraternity Council at The Ohio State University, hereinafter referred to as the Interfraternity Council, or IFC.

## **Article II: Mission and Purpose**

### Section A: Mission

- i. It shall be the mission of the Ohio State IFC to promote, educate, and govern its member organizations. The IFC will promote and embody leadership in action, academic excellence, strong bonds of brotherhood, service to the community, and networking for its member organizations. The Interfraternity Council's scope of authority will include executive, judicial, and legislative policies. The Council will have the authority to decide policy that is deemed necessary pertaining to the member organizations represented by the Council. The Council has the authority to administer these policies, adjudicate these policies (except those that are of university policy) by means of the Joint Council Judicial Board (JCJB) and administer the appropriate action of these policies. The Interfraternity Council shall abide by all University rules and regulations, and state and federal laws. Authority of the Interfraternity Council is derived through recognition by the Office of Student Life, which is responsible to the Vice President for Student Life.

## Section B: Purpose

- i. It shall be the purpose of the Interfraternity Council to:
  - a. Act as the initial legislative and executive body in organization/council matters pertaining to Sorority & Fraternity Life.
  - b. Act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and the initiation of action between individual Greek organizations, the IFC community, other Greek councils, and the University administration, and the University community at large.
  - c. Support its individual member organizations through the creation of an atmosphere conducive to individual member organizations supporting one another.
  - d. Hold member organizations accountable for their actions and to the highest interpretation of the ideals on which their organizations were founded.
  - e. Work with University officials and University recognized organizations on such matters as is relevant to the Council and its member organizations.
  - f. Be responsible for granting and revoking recognition of membership within the Council.
  - g. Oversee other activities as they may pertain to the IFC or its member chapters.

## **Article III: Common Definitions**

### Section A: Common Terms

- i. Associate Members/Pledges/New Members/PhiKeia: non-initiated members in a new member education program within an IFC organization.
- ii. Founding Father: Founding member of a new organization on campus founded by a student. Prior to recognition as a chartered chapter by their national organization.
- iii. Member Organization: any of the IFC-affiliated men's social/general fraternity organizations currently active (or recruiting) at The Ohio State University. Such organizations must fully participate in and abide by all parts or portions of this constitution. This includes organizations recognized by their (Inter)National organizations, the IFC and the University.
- iv. Panhellenic Association (PHA): The governing council of the national social sororities at The Ohio State University.
- v. Joint Council Judicial Board (JCJB): The acting judicial body of the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Association, Multicultural Greek Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council at The Ohio State University. All judicial matters are handled and processed through this body by representatives from each of the four councils. The IFC representative is referred to as Chief Justice.

- vi. Delegate: the president of a member organization sent to an Interfraternity Council meeting for the purpose of representation, discussion, and/or vote-casting.
- vii. Executive Board Meeting: a meeting of the council president, his VP officers, and the council adviser.
- viii. General Body Meeting: Regularly scheduled meetings at which the Executive Board, delegates, and council support officers are present for the purpose of conducting business.
- ix. Member: any current student who has accepted membership into an IFC organization.
- x. Ohio Union Sorority & Fraternity Life: the OSU Office/Department charged with the advisement and maintenance of the Interfraternity Council, the Pan-Hellenic Association, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Multicultural Greek Council and their memberships.
- xi. Quorum: 2/3 of all member organizations must be present at an IFC General Body Meeting in order to vote on any matters outlaid in this constitution and pursuant bylaws.

## **Article IV: Membership**

### Section A: Membership\_Criteria

- i. Be in accordance with the membership guidelines outlined in the Ohio State University Interfraternity Council Bylaws.
- ii. Be in good standing with the University's policies and standards relevant to member organizations.
- iii. Be in good standing with the member organizations' respective (Inter)National Organizations per their policies and standards.
- iv. This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

### Section B: Expansion

- i. Any group of university students desiring to form a chapter of a national or local fraternity at The Ohio State University (an interest group) shall seek the approval of the university and the Interfraternity Council.

- ii. In order for an interest group to begin expansion at The Ohio State University they must meet the following guidelines:
  - a. A 3/4 approval of member organizations present during an IFC General Body Meeting.
  - b. Accordance with all relevant IFC expansion bylaws.

#### Section C: Expulsion

- i. A member fraternity will lose IFC membership through a JCJB verdict rendered and a 3/4 confirmation vote of member organizations present at a general body meeting of the IFC.

### **Article V: Officers**

#### Section A: Order of succession

- i. President, Vice President of Administration, Chief Justice, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Community Development, Vice President of Recruitment of Retention, Vice President of Risk Management, Vice President of Scholarship

#### Section B: List of Responsibilities

- i. The following shall comprise the IFC Executive Board elected annually and shall be the order of succession.
  - a. President
    - i. The President is chiefly responsible for the overall operation of the IFC.
    - ii. Preside over all IFC General Body meetings.
    - iii. Serve on or represent the IFC on any university or student committee as necessary.
    - iv. Work closely with the Executive Vice President to ensure the efficiency of IFC's internal operation.
    - v. Work closely with the Chief Justice on judicial matters.
    - vi. Appoint and disband special committees.
    - vii. Work with the President of the Pan-Hellenic Association, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the Multi-Cultural Greek Council as necessary to advance IFC's interests and improve Greek relations and visibility.
    - viii. Oversee the development of any public statements made on behalf of the IFC.
    - ix. Coordinate with the Student Wellness Center to establish and utilize peer educators on men's health and other topics.
    - x. Serve as the council liaison to the Undergraduate Student Government
    - xi. Vote to break a tie of the IFC Executive Board.

- b. Executive Vice President
  - i. Be responsible for scheduling rooms for IFC meetings and event.
  - ii. Create and distribute agendas for meetings of IFC General Body.
  - iii. Work closely with the President to ensure the efficiency of IFC's internal operation.
  - iv. Schedule, coordinate, and preside over executive board meeting.
  - v. Coordinate annual Presidents' retreats and IFC Executive Board retreats.
  - vi. Actively support and participate in all other Vice Presidents' initiatives.
  - vii. In the President's temporary absence, perform the duties of that office.
  - viii. Become eligible to be the President should that office become permanently vacant, once confirmed by a majority vote of The IFC General Body.
  
- c. Vice President of Judicial Affairs/Chief Justice
  - i. Coordinate the IFC elections.
  - ii. Take the minutes during IFC General Body meetings and IFC Executive Board meetings.
  - iii. Select three associate justices to serve on the JCJB with the advisement of the IFC President and council advisors.
  - iv. Lead a committee each semester to review and maintain the IFC bylaws and Constitution.
  - v. Remain impartial toward any IFC chapter.
  - vi. Review and recommend potential improvements to the Joint Council Judicial Board by-laws.
  
- d. Vice President of Finance
  - i. Create, present, and maintain the council's budget in conjunction with the Internal Audit Committee.
  - ii. Regulate the finances of the IFC.
  - iii. Create an effective system of controls and oversee the financial integrity of the council.
  - iv. Enforce and uphold all financial obligations and policies.
  - v. Establish and maintain a requisition and reimbursement procedure and authorize IFC purchases.
  - vi. Publish an easily accessible budget for the convenience of the council members.
  - vii. Conduct regular chapter roster assessments to ensure accurate billing.
  - viii. Make necessary arrangements for the annual AFLV conference.
  - ix. Serve as the Chairman of the Internal Audit Committee
  
- e. Vice President of Community Development
  - i. Support and assist in the creation of chapter service and philanthropy initiatives.

- ii. Facilitate information sharing between Sorority and Fraternity Life and chapters regarding service and philanthropy events.
- iii. Provide information, opportunities and resources to the IFC community related to external relations.
- iv. Plan programming events on behalf of the IFC and Greek Community.
- v. Serve as the IFC representative at relevant Greek Programming Board meetings.
- vi. Serve as a resource to the IFC General Body and community in programming endeavors.
- vii. Oversee Directors of Logistics and Marketing.

f. Vice President of Recruitment and Retention

- i. Contact all chapter recruitment chairs and counselors regarding IFC recruitment events.
- ii. Consistently update and release contact information of potential new members to all chapters.
- iii. Serve as a resource to the IFC General Body and community in recruitment endeavors.
- iv. Manage the IFC website.
- v. Compile the Newsletter.
- vi. Meet with member organization recruitment chairmen as a group to discuss policies of recruitment and make recommendations to IFC General Body.
- vii. Be responsible for organizing and maintaining the required recruitment information sessions.
- viii. Compile all member organization recruitment events and distribute information to potential new members.
- ix. Edit, order, and distribute recruitment materials.
- x. Oversee the Directors as specified in the IFC Recruitment By-laws.

g. Vice President of Risk Management

- i. Coordinate the IFC event registration process.
- ii. Lead the IFC risk management committee in inspecting IFC events.
- iii. Represent the IFC as the prosecutor for JCJB hearings.
- iv. Assist chapters in developing strong risk management plans.
- v. Coordinate with President and Council Advisor to select risk management committee members outlined in the Risk Management Bylaws.
- vi. Serve as a resource to the IFC General Body and community in risk management endeavors.
- vii. Meet with Fraternity new member educators as a group to discuss policies of new member education and make recommendations to the IFC General Body.

h. Vice President of Scholarship

- i. Assist chapters in developing scholarship plans to improve chapter grade point average.
- ii. Coordinate the IFC scholarships.
- iii. Coordinate regular recognition of IFC scholarship achievement.
- iv. Offer academic opportunities that may be of interest to the IFC community.

b. All members of the IFC Executive Committee will be responsible for submitting appropriate AFLV awards and preparing annual student organization goals.

#### Section B: Terms and Qualifications of Executive Board Members

- ii. All Executive Board positions shall be year-long elected offices.
- iii. Every Executive Officer must:
  - a. Be a part of a member organization.
  - b. Be enrolled full time as defined by the university.
  - c. Not be a currently serving Chapter President of a Member Organization.
  - d. Have twenty-four credit hours completed at the Ohio State University.

### **Article VI: The Executive Board**

#### Section A: Powers

- i. The Executive Powers of the Interfraternity Council shall be vested in the Interfraternity Council Executive Board, hereinafter referred to as the Executive Board, which shall consist of 8 members.

#### Section B: Directors and Committees

- i. The Executive Board may appoint directors and committees as deemed necessary by the Executive Board. Each appointment must be confirmed by the Executive Board and announced at the next General Body Meeting.

### **Article VII: The Legislative Body**

#### Section A: Meetings

- i. The legislative body of this organization shall be called the General Body.
- ii. The procedure of the general body and the general body meeting will be defined within the IFC bylaws.
  - a. IFC General Body will meet on a bi-weekly basis.

#### Section B: Representation

- i. Each member organization will be entitled to one vote in the IFC General Body unless this voting privilege has been revoked.
  - a. A non-voting member shall be a recognized member organization whose voting privileges have been removed per the IFC bylaws.
- ii. The IFC general body will be composed of delegates of the member organizations. The IFC Executive Board has the sole authority to allow a president to appoint a delegate.

## **Article VIII: Joint Council Judicial Board**

### Section A: The Joint Council Judicial Board

- i. The Joint Council Judicial Board serves as the Judicial branch of the Interfraternity Council. It is utilized to adjudicate any matters pertaining to the constitution and bylaws unless otherwise explicitly stated herein.

### Section B: Representatives

- i. The Chief Justice shall represent the Executive Board and the General Body on the Joint Council Judicial Board

## **Article IX: Advisors**

### Section A: Staff Advisors

- i. The advisor to the Interfraternity Council shall be the appointed designee by the OSU Vice President for Student Life.
- ii. The role of the advisor shall be to analyze the group process, provide consultation on matters which may arise, aid in communication between the Council and the OSU Administration & Faculty, communicate with the member fraternities (Inter) National Organizations regarding all success and problems that may arise, provide training and orientation for Council officers, and provide information and resources for the success of the Council.

## **Article X: Removal from Office**

### Section A: IFC Officer Conduct

- i. An IFC officer may be brought-up on charges of conduct unbecoming of an IFC officer. The charges may be brought by the executive board or a member of the IFC general body.
  - a. The IFC President, Executive Vice-President and Chief Justice shall be notified in writing of such charges.

- b. The accused officer will then proceed through the impeachment process.

#### Section B: Impeachment

- i. An impeached officer is officially accused of conduct unbecoming of an IFC officer and shall be sent to the IFC General Body for the case to be heard.
- ii. Procedural requirements of the impeachment of Executive Officers shall be prescribed within the IFC Bylaws pursuant to the following requirements:
  - a. 3/4 of the IFC general body or a unanimous decision of the Executive Board, save for the accused member, must vote in the affirmative.
  - b. A 3/4 vote of IFC general body can absolve an Executive Board member impeached by the Executive Board.
  - c. Impeachment proceedings may only occur at IFC general body meetings.
  - d. Only those positions outlined in Article 5: Section A shall be subject to impeachment proceedings.
  - e. If any auxiliary or appointed positions are created within the IFC, those can be declared vacant at any time by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board.

#### Section C: Resignation

- i. Any resigning officer shall officially inform the IFC executive board in writing.
- ii. All chapter presidents and the IFC adviser shall be notified of the resignation immediately.
- iii. A replacement election shall occur at the first regularly scheduled General Body meeting occurring no less than 96 hours after those outlined in Section C - ii, are notified.
- iv. Elections for the resigning officer will follow procedures as prescribed in the IFC Bylaws.

### **Article XI: University Relations**

#### Section A: Authority

- i. This constitution is ratified with confidence on the part of all member organizations that the university administration will work cooperatively with the council in all matters for the betterment of the institution.
- ii. To the end that the matters of the Interfraternity Council will be dispatched with reasonable speed toward definite results, the Council recognizes the authority of the University as supreme in the enforcement of all rules and regulations set forth in the constitution and by-laws. It is believed, however, that the statement of the policy of the administration was made in good faith to the effect that young men in our colleges

and universities should learn and practice the science and art of self-government and that, therefore, they should, in student organizations and activities, be accorded the privilege of governing themselves.

- iii. It is recognized that supreme authority in the matter of control over Interfraternity relations must be considered to rest with the University president or arbiter appointed by him/her, and may be exercised to these ends:
  - a. The settlement of a matter in dispute appealed from the decisions of the council or a committee as provided in this constitution.
  - b. The suspension or abridgment of any or all clauses of this constitution to meet any emergency, which abridgment or suspension is deemed to be for the best interest of fraternities and the institution.

## **Article XII: Bylaws**

### Section A: Authority of bylaws

- i. All rules not stated or defined in this Constitution may be further defined by the IFC bylaws. The IFC bylaws receive authority from this Constitution.

### Section B: Creation of bylaws

- i. The General Body shall adopt such Bylaws as they deem necessary and applicable, which are consistent with the provisions of this constitution.
  - a. The IFC general body cannot vote to approve a bylaw that contradicts any part of the constitution.
- ii. A simple majority vote of the IFC general body is required to enact or amend any bylaw.
- iii. A 2/3 vote of the IFC general body is required to repeal any bylaw.
- iv. All proposed Bylaws or amendments shall be submitted to the Council in writing at least one full IFC General Body meeting prior to the time they are voted upon by the council, during New Business.

## **Article XIII: Amendments**

### Section A: Proposal of Amendments

- i. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed in writing by any Chapter President or the Interfraternity Council Executive Board.

### Section B: Approval of amendments

- i. Proposed amendment(s), once submitted, shall be placed on First Reading for the next full, regularly-scheduled Interfraternity Council meeting. At this meeting, copies of the proposed changes shall be distributed to all representatives.
  - a. Any changes to a proposed amendment results in another first reading.
- ii. The proposed amendment(s) shall then be placed on Second Reading for the next full, regularly-scheduled Interfraternity Council meeting. A three---fourths (3/4) approval vote shall be required to amend the IFC Constitution.
- iii. A constitutional amendment, once passed, becomes effective immediately unless otherwise specified.

#### Section C: Ratification

- i. The ratification of this document requires a 2/3 of the member organizations represented at an IFC General Body meeting, with each fraternity having one vote and all voting in roll-call vote fashion.