The Interfraternity Council of The University of Texas at Arlington

CONSTITUTION

Article I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 Name

The name of this body shall be The Interfraternity Council at The University of Texas at Arlington, hereafter referred to as the IFC.

Section 2 Purpose

The purpose of the IFC shall be to:

• Promote the best interest of The University of Texas at Arlington and the IFC member fraternities
• Promote and ensure cooperation among member fraternities
• Provide vital services for the benefit of member fraternities
• Act as a representative government that establishes rules and policies that govern the activities and actions of member fraternities, and
• Foster positive communication between member fraternities, the University, and the Arlington community.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Privilege & Responsibility

Membership in the Interfraternity Council is at all times to be considered a privilege extended by the fraternity system as a whole and may be withdrawn from any member fraternity under the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws. Member Chapters can be held responsible for individual members actions as they are members of the organizations and represent it at all times. Individual members of a Member
Fraternity can be held accountable to Interfraternity Council based on severity of actions.

Section 2 Member Fraternities

- Composition: The IFC shall be composed of social fraternities that:
  - All standing member chapters of IFC are required to hold a national or international charter from a member of the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) or maintain a Title IX exemption (same-sex all male fraternity).
  - Are currently registered and in good standing with the Office of Student Activities and Organizations.

- Membership Status

- Regular Member Fraternities
  - Regular Members will be all general NIC fraternities who have fulfilled Section 2.03 of this Constitution. These members shall have a voice and a vote in all council matters.

- Associate Member Fraternities
  - Associate Members will be all general National or International Fraternities who are in the process of completing the provisions of Section 2.03 below. These members shall have a voice in all matters of the council, and shall have a vote in all matters except for Constitution & Bylaw Amendments or cases of Member Chapter Expulsion. Associate member chapters cannot have delegates serve as officers unless nomination is accepted by Executive Committee.

Section 3 Expansion & Admission

- An organization applying for admission shall not possess a constitution that conflicts with any policies outlined in the IFC Constitution and Bylaws or any policies of The University of Texas at Arlington.
  - The petitioning organization must be a currently registered with the Office of Student Activities and Organizations as student organization
  - The Interfraternity Council at UT Arlington supports the NIC Standard for Open Expansion. However, to assure success of each expansion opportunity, only (1) IFC chapter will be extended each academic year. The national organization requesting admittance to the Interfraternity Council at University of Texas at Arlington must do so in writing to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life. The FSL advisor will designate a timetable with HQ representatives to assure a successful expansion plan. Representatives of from national headquarter staff should refer to the FSL Expansion policy outlined at www.uta.edu/fsl
• In order to deny admittance to the UT Arlington Interfraternity Council, a 2/3 vote from Standing Member IFC chapters at general body is required to veto admission of a petitioning organization. This vote will take place at the next IFC general body meeting after the petitioning organization has met with IFC at a general body meeting.

Section 4   Removal of Member Fraternities

• A petition of removal shall be circulated and must have one-half (1/2) of the voting council members signatures for presentation to the Vice President of Operations for consideration by the Executive Committee.

• The IFC President shall read the petition for removal at the next regular meeting.

• At the next regular meeting after the petition for removal is read, a vote will be called automatically, and shall be conducted by secret ballot. A three-fourths (3/4) majority of eligible voting council membership, excluding the Fraternity named on petition, is required for removal.

Section 5   Readmission of Expelled or Inactive Chapters

• Readmission of an expelled or inactive chapter shall be considered as admission of a new fraternity and follow the procedures as stated in Section 3 above.

Article III. ORGANIZATION

Section 1   Chapter Delegation

• Delegate Roles

    Chapters shall appoint two regular delegates and one alternate to represent the chapter in all council matters. The delegates shall have the following roles:

    • Senior Delegate

        The senior delegate shall have the primary role of casting the chapter’s vote in all matters. The senior delegate shall be a member of the chapter’s executive council or a delegate who has served for at least one year as an IFC delegate.

    • Junior Delegate

        The junior delegate shall be any initiated member of the chapter. The junior delegate shall have a voice in all matters, but no vote.

    • Alternate Delegate
• Chapters shall designate an individual to serve as the alternate delegate in the case of an absence of one of the regular delegates.

• Delegate Eligibility

Delegates must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and a semester GPA of not less than 2.5. Senior/Junior Delegates must be initiated members of the chapter; Alternate delegates may be new members of the chapter.

• Delegate Responsibilities

Each regular delegate shall be required to serve on at least one standing committee. Each regular delegate shall be required to attend all regular and special meetings. Regular delegates who are not able to attend these meetings must send the alternate delegate in his place. Each regular delegate shall attend the meetings of the committee to which he is assigned.

Section 2 Executive Officers

• Composition

The Executive board shall be composed of seven (6) officers. These officers shall be: President, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of Membership & Recruitment, Vice President of Programming & New Member Education, Vice President of Finance & Administration, and Vice President of Communication. The duties of these officers shall be outlined in Article I of the Bylaws.

• Eligibility

Officers must be elected from current Interfraternity Council members who have been initiated for at least one semester, unless otherwise approved by the IFC Executive Council and IFC Advisor. The Executive Board may approve exceptions by a majority vote to accept a member’s nomination.

At the time of election, officers must have a cumulative GPA of not less than 2.5.

Officers must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5, and must not have a semester GPA less than 2.5 during their term of office.

• Election Timetable and Order
Officer elections shall be held during the last two regular meetings in November.

The President, Vice President of Operations, and Vice President of Membership & Recruitment shall be elected, in this order, at the first of these two regular meetings. The Vice President of Programming & New Member Education, Vice President of Finance & Administration, and Vice President of Communications shall be elected, in this order, either at the first meeting preceding the first three elections (time permitting), or at the second of these two regular meetings.

Nominations for positions must complete the FSL Executive Officer application and agree to all FSL requirements outlined.

• Election Procedures

All nominated candidates shall have three (3) minutes, with the exception of presidential candidates who shall have five (5) minutes, to present their platform. During the candidate speeches, all other candidates for the position currently being elected shall be asked to leave the room. All elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. A simple majority (51%) shall be required to win an election.

In the event no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a runoff election shall be held between the top two candidates. Candidates will not be allowed additional speaking time.

• Term of Office

Newly elected officers shall be officially installed and assume all duties at the final regular meeting in November. The term of office shall be one (1) year in length.

• Restrictions

No more than two (2) executive officers may be from the same chapter.

The President and Vice President of Operations shall not be from the same chapter.

The IFC President shall not concurrently hold the office of President of his chapter. The IFC Vice President of Membership & Recruitment shall not concurrently hold either the office of Recruitment Chair or President of his chapter.

• Vacancies
In the case of a vacancy in any of these offices, except President, the President shall appoint a replacement with the approval of the executive committee, the FSL Advisor, and a majority vote of the chapter delegation.

In the case of a Presidential vacancy, the Vice President of Operations shall assume the office of President for the remainder of the term. The subsequent vacancy shall be filled as outlined in Section 3 above.

- **Removal from Office**

If at any time an officer fails to perform the duties of his office, a petition for his removal shall be circulated. The petition must be signed by at least one-half (1/2) of the eligible voting council membership before it can be submitted to the Council for consideration. Upon receipt of a petition for removal from office, it shall then be the duty of the IFC President to read such petition at the first regular meeting following its original presentation.

The petition will be voted on at the next regular meeting with a motion to accept automatically. Removal from office shall require two-thirds (2/3) vote of eligible council membership to pass, and will be taken by secret ballot.

The officer will be removed by the next regular meeting if motion passes.

If the petition is to remove the President, the Vice President of Operations shall assume the duties of President upon removal. The vacancy shall be filled as outlined in Section 3 above.

Section 3 **Committees**

- The use of a committee system is essential to involve as many people as possible in the self-governance of the IFC and to ensure that programs and services provided by the IFC are beneficial to its member fraternities.

- The IFC will consist of the following standing committees:

  - **Recruitment**

    - This committee shall be chaired by the IFC Vice President of Membership & Recruitment, and shall consist of all of the Recruitment Chairmen of all member chapters. The committee shall meet as necessary. The committee shall have (but not be limited to) the following tasks: developing recruitment strategies for the Interfraternity Council, providing recruitment workshops for member chapters, developing recruitment materials, developing recruitment rules, regulations, and schedules, and conducting orientation sessions for prospective new members.
• Judicial & Risk Management
  
  The IFC Vice President of Operations shall chair this committee. All chapter delegates may be asked to serve as delegates to IFC Judicial Hearings. The committee shall meet as necessary. The committee shall have (but not be limited to) the following tasks: ensure compliance with all risk management and event policies, to issue charges and to adjudicate alleged violations of such policies, to conduct routine risk management inspections, to provide educational programming related to risk management.

• Scholarship
  
  A senior delegate selected by the IFC Vice President of Programming & New Member Education shall chair this committee. The committee shall meet as necessary. The committee shall have (but not be limited to) the following tasks: to develop programs that enhance the academic standing of member fraternities, to provide recognition for the academic achievement of chapters and members, to collect and distribute information about academic services available to students, to foster positive relations between the IFC and the UTA faculty.

• Philanthropy & Community Service
  
  A senior delegate selected by the IFC Vice President of Programming & New Member Education shall chair this committee. The committee shall meet as necessary. The committee shall have (but not be limited to) the following tasks: To coordinate at least one philanthropic or community service event per year that involves all member chapters, to coordinate the philanthropic and community service efforts of all member chapters.

• Activities
  
  The IFC Vice President of Programming & New Member Education shall chair this committee. The committee shall meet as necessary. The committee shall have (but not be limited to) the following tasks: To coordinate the intramural program of the IFC, to coordinate the annual Greek Alumni Reception, to coordinate the Annual Greek Week events.

• Special Committees
  
  At any time, with consent of the Executive Committee, the IFC President may create a special committee for a specific purpose. Special committees are not permanent standing committees and will be dissolved upon completion of its listed mission or tasks.

Section 4 President’s Council

• The President’s Council shall serve as an All-Greek forum to improve FSL and discuss special problems among the leaders of Greek organizations.
The President’s Council shall include all Chapter Presidents of CPH, IFC, NPHC, and the Multicultural Greek Organizations represented at UTA. The FSL Advisor shall act as director of these meetings with the IFC President and any other Officers necessary acting as aids.

This body shall hold meetings once a month of every regular month of the semester at a time and location to be determined by the FSL Advisor.

(Special meetings of the President’s Council may be called by the Greek Advisor with written notification of at least forty-eight (48) hours.)

Section 5 IFC Advisor

The IFC Advisor will be the person named by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life to serve as the IFC Advisor.

The Duties of this Advisor will be as follows:

- Advise Executive committee, committee chairman, or other officers on duties, roles, and objectives.
- Aid in the Judicial Committee hearing process and execution of judicial actions.
- Represent the IFC to the University Administration.

Article IV. MEETINGS

Section 1 Robert’s Rules of Order

All meetings will be conducted by Robert’s Rules of Order

Section 2 Regular Meetings

Time and Place

Regular meetings shall be held at a time and location to be determined by the Chapter delegation beginning with the first week of school, unless previously notified.
• Attendance

Each regular and associate member chapter shall be represented by two delegates. Only the designated chapter delegates (or the designated alternate) shall be counted toward attendance. Chapters that fail to be represented at IFC meetings shall be issued a fine in accordance with Section 5 below. Chapters are encouraged to send additional delegates to IFC meetings.

• Quorum

A Quorum shall be defined as two-thirds (2/3) of the total voting membership of council as defined in Section 2 above.

Section 3 Committee Meetings

• Committees shall meet as necessary

• Attendance records for committee meetings will be maintained by the committee chair.

• Absences from committee meetings will be treated as absences from regular meetings

Section 4 Special Meetings

The Inter fraternity Council President has the right to call special meeting with one-fourth (1/4) of Council membership and by giving due notice. Due notice shall consist of a written communication forty-eight (48) hours before scheduled time of meeting.

Article V. FINANCES

Section 5 Dues

• Each Member Fraternity shall be charged dues each long semester for membership in the Interfraternity Council. The rate for dues shall be determined by the Executive Council and approved by a majority of the chapter delegation.

• An invoice for dues will be distributed at the second regular meeting after the conclusion of the formal recruitment period. Dues must be paid by the second regular meeting after the initial invoice is distributed. Failure to pay dues shall result in

• The following penalties:
• Payment within the first two weeks after the initial invoice is distributed – no penalty
• Payments made after the second week after the initial invoice is distributed will incur a late charge of $25 per week.
• Payments not received within three weeks after the initial invoice is distributed – loss of intramural points until paid.
• Payments not received within four weeks after the initial invoice is distributed – loss of social privileges until paid.

Section 6  Expenditures

• All Interfraternity Council expenditures will be presented by the Vice President of Finance & Administration and approved by the Executive Committee.
• Expenditures in excess of $1000 shall require majority approval of the chapter delegation.
• Reimbursement for expenditures by Executive Board or Committee Members shall require the following in order to be paid:
  • Receipt of purchase must be presented
  • The purchase was for official Inter fraternity Council business materials.
  • Prior approval for the expenditure was obtained from the IFC Advisor or the Vice President of Administration

Section 7  Fines

All fines should vary on the severity of the violation but should never collectively exceed $500 each semester. IFC and the chapters are encouraged to seek out other forms of sanctioning to avoid abuse of fines.

Article VI. VOTING

Section 1  Chapter Delegation

One vote shall be granted to each Member Fraternity so that the total votes is the total of
fraternity Chapters that have privilege to vote. The vote is interpreted as representing the entire Member Fraternity’s position.

Section 2    Majority

A simple majority (51%) of eligible council members will be needed to carry all questions unless otherwise indicated in this Constitution or the Inter fraternity Council Bylaws.

Section 3    Tie-Breaker

In the event of a tie decision, the Interfraternity Council President shall be granted a vote to break such tie. The President’s vote will serve to represent the Executive Committee.

Article VII. RULES & REGULATIONS

Section 1     Liability

This Organization and all its Member Fraternities are subject to all Federal, State, and Local laws, the Rules of The University of Texas System Board of Regents, the Policies and Procedures of The University of Texas at Arlington, and the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws

Section 2     Judicial Procedures

All IFC judicial proceedings shall be conducted according to the IFC Judicial Code.

Article VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1     Amendment presentation

Constitution amendments shall be proposed in writing and submitted to the IFC Vice President of Administration. He shall present the proposal to the Council delegates at the next regular meeting after it is presented to him. Voting shall be held at the next official meeting of the Interfraternity Council following the presentation of the proposed amendment.

Section 2     Amendment Approval

Constitutional amendments will be approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of eligible membership and will take effect at the next regular meeting.