

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL (IFC) AT ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

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## **ARTICLE I - MISSION**

We, the Interfraternity Council at Arkansas Tech University set forth this Constitution and Bylaws in order to cause closer working relationships and coordination among its Member Fraternities and Arkansas Tech University. In order to promote the general betterment of Fraternity Life on campus, the Interfraternity Council at Arkansas Tech University establish and subscribe to the following mission statement:

“The men of the Interfraternity Council of Arkansas Tech University are committed to building a fraternity community through the universal application and perpetuation of the five core principles: accountability, integrity, unity, open-mindedness, and service. We pledge to have an open-mind in regards to individual chapter ambitions which address all fraternal issues. As an Interfraternity Council, we plan to serve the fraternity community through accountability and integrity; operating solely through a strong sense of unity. We promise to adhere to those principles and apply them within our individual chapters.”

## **ARTICLE II – STATEMENT**

The IFC is in support of an environment that is free of hazing and sexual misconduct. As outlined in the IFC Judicial Code, hazing and sexual assault should be adjudicated through the university conduct processes. IFC will also help, support, and monitor recruitment for all chapters.

## **ARTICLE II – NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Interfraternity Council (IFC) at Arkansas Tech University (ATU).

## **ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the IFC shall be to:

- A. Develop and maintain fraternity life and Interfraternity relations at a high level of accomplishment.
- B. Cooperate with member fraternities and university administration in concern for high social and moral standards.
- C. Act in accordance with the standards and philosophies of our national organizations and the National Interfraternity Conference (NIC).
- D. Serve as the official voice of the social fraternities of Arkansas Tech University.
- E. Provide a medium for exchange of ideas and needed assistance among the fraternities.
- F. See to provide services on an Interfraternal level that could not be handled as well by the individual fraternities.
- G. Discuss questions of mutual interest and present to the fraternities such recommendations as the IFC sees fit.
- H. Promote good scholarship.
- I. The IFC will establish a medical Good Samaritan policy.

- J. Organize, coordinate and oversee all recruitment activities of all social fraternities, both member and aspiring member.
- K. The IFC will have the policies and programming consistent with the NIC Guidelines on Alcohol & Drugs.
- L. Help member fraternities with recruitment, and monitor a fair and honest recruitment period

## ARTICLE IV – IFC MEMBERSHIP

### **Section I. Membership Eligibility**

- A. Any chapter or colony of a North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) member organization shall hold membership in the IFC.
- B. Any chapter or colony of a local, state, regional, or inter/national fraternity, which is not a member of the NIC, may hold membership in the IFC.
- C. The IFC and each of its member chapters will carry sufficient liability insurance coverage.
  - a. The NIC offers an IFC Insurance Program that provides affordable liability for the IFC, its officers and volunteers.
  - b. If the IFC obtains coverage through another plan, it must submit the IFC Insurance Exemption form by August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year through FS Central.
- D. The Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life as designated by the Division of Student Services shall advise the IFC.

### **Section II. Membership Classification for Member Fraternities**

The membership classification of Member Fraternities shall be as follows:

- A. Full Member: Any fraternity chapter that has obtained its charter from its international organization, or any local fraternity chapter. Full Membership grants the member fraternity all rights, privileges and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. Associate Member: Any fraternity colony of an international organization. Associate Membership grants the member fraternity all rights, privileges, and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and By-Laws, except that it does not have voting privileges, cannot hold IFC Executive Board positions, nor have an IFC Standards Committee Justice.

For the purpose of this Constitution and the IFC Bylaws, both Full Members and Associate Members are referred to as Member Fraternities.

### **Section III. Member Fraternity Standards**

Each member fraternity shall adhere to and abide by the following minimum expectations:

- A. Each member fraternity shall comply with all policies set forth by:
  - 1) The IFC Constitution and Bylaws
  - 2) The rules, regulations, and expectations of Arkansas Tech University, including those posed by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Student Code of Conduct.
- B. Each member fraternity shall strive for academic achievement and practice academic integrity which includes but is not limited to:
  - 1) Maintaining a minimum term GPA of 2.75

- C. Each member fraternity shall meet all financial obligations in a timely manner including IFC dues owed.
- D. Each member fraternity shall submit required membership rosters to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life immediately upon any change to active membership and by the requested date.
- E. Each member fraternity shall comply with the attendance policies for the IFC General Body and the IFC Standards Committee, as outlined within this Constitution.
- F. Each member fraternity shall understand the ideals expressed in our fraternity rituals and will strive to incorporate them in our daily lives.
- G. Each member fraternity shall respect the dignity of all persons; therefore, will not physically, mentally, psychologically or sexually abuse or harm any human being.
- H. Each member fraternity shall protect the health and safety of all human beings.
- I. Each member fraternity shall respect our property and the property of others; therefore, each member fraternity will neither abuse nor tolerate the abuse of property.
- J. Each member fraternity shall neither use nor support the use of illegal drugs; we will neither misuse nor support the misuse of alcohol.
- K. All IFC member chapters will actively support the responsible growth of other NIC fraternities provided that each organization follows these Responsible Growth Protocols:
  - a. Proactively communications with the campus administration and IFC in good faith prior to any expansion activity.
  - b. Considers any available readiness assessment, utilizing metrics determined in conjunction with the NIC before formally requesting the opportunity to join the IFC.
  - c. The group does not have any outstanding, documented campus health and safety violation.
- L. Each member fraternity shall challenge all fraternity members to abide by these fraternal expectations and will confront those who violate them.
- M. Full membership in the IFC is limited to those fraternities (including non-NIC organizations), who have adopted all NIC standards, are affiliated with an inter/national organization, and are men's fraternities.

A member fraternity that has failed to meet any of the minimum expectations outlined in this Section can be penalized or referred to the Standards Committee.

The IFC will ~~to~~ recognize chapters that have been suspended or have had the charter revoked by the inter/national organization.

#### **Section IV. Chapter Reinstatement**

- A. The IFC will honor all organizational return agreements negotiated as part of a campus or IFC conduct process. Any organization returning to campus based on a return agreement will not be required to participate in any IFC or campus expansion process.
- B. Recognition by the IFC and campus are two distinct processes with potentially different outcomes, though it is best for students when organizations recognized by the IFC are also recognized by the campus.

#### **Section IV. Individual Member Definitions**

For the purpose of this Constitution and the IFC Bylaws, and with an understanding that each member fraternity may have its own terminology for internal use, individuals will be defined as follows:

- A. Active Member: An Active Member shall be defined as any man who has been initiated into any fraternity at Arkansas Tech University.
- B. New Member: A New Member shall be defined as any man who has accepted a bid to join a fraternity at Arkansas Tech University, but has not been initiated into that fraternity.
- C. Potential New Member: A Potential New Member shall be defined as any man who has not accepted a bid from any fraternity at Arkansas Tech University.

## **ARTICLE V – IFC GENERAL BODY**

### **Section I. IFC General Body**

The powers of the IFC shall be vested in the IFC General Body. The IFC General Body shall be the governing legislative body responsible for the general policies of the IFC, for electing its Executive Board, and for instructing its Executive Board as to the activities and operations of the IFC. All such activities shall respect the of each member fraternity and shall not relinquish any governance authority to any other governing body.

### **Section II. IFC General Body Composition**

The IFC General Body shall be composed of voting IFC Representatives from each member fraternity.

### **Section III. IFC Representatives**

Each member fraternity shall have two IFC Representatives, chosen by that member fraternity, who serves on the IFC General Body. An IFC Representative cannot already be a member of the IFC Executive Board.

### **Section IV. General Body Meeting Policies**

The IFC General Body shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:

- A. The IFC General Body shall conduct weekly or bi-weekly meetings during the academic year.
- B. Two IFC Representatives must be present at each meeting. More than five absences per semester shall result in the member fraternity being referred to the IFC Vice President:
  - 1) If the regular meetings have been found to be 15 minutes or less than only one delegate is required to be present. If the meetings last regularly longer than 15 minutes, then two delegates are required. IFC executive board may ask for two delegates from each chapter with a 72-hour notice.
- C. If a chapter has no delegates present at an IFC general body meeting without at least 24 hours' notice to the Vice President, it will result in an automatic \$30.00 fine assessed to the chapter that must be paid within one week of the missed meeting. If a chapter only has one delegate the fine will be -\$15.
  - 1) The IFC Executive Board has the right to approve or deny requested absences. If the absence is denied the \$30.00 fine will be assessed. If a chapter has more than one

- unexcused absence with no representation within a semester they will be referred to the Vice President for judicial review.
- 2) IFC delegates are expected to be at their meetings promptly at the assigned meeting time. Chapter delegates who arrive after assigned meeting time will be assessed a tardy fine of \$15.
  - D. A majority of Member Fraternities present shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct IFC General Body business.
  - E. The IFC President may call special meetings at any time or at the request of two Member Fraternities, with consent from the Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Requests for special meetings should include notice of the time, location, and purpose of the special meeting provided to all Member Fraternities at least 24 hours in advance.

## **Section V. IFC General Body Voting Policies**

The IFC General Body shall operate utilizing the following voting policies:

- A. Proposed and seconded motion on issues that impact a chapter as a whole must be announced at a previous meeting to allow opportunity for chapter input before a vote may be taken on the issue.
- B. Majority vote of the IFC General Body shall be required to adopt any motion other than that of expansion, which shall require a majority) vote for approval.
- C. In the event of a tie, the IFC President shall cast the deciding vote.
- D. There shall be no secret ballots.

## **ARTICLE VI – IFC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **Section I. IFC Executive Board**

The IFC Executive Board shall be responsible for carrying out the purpose and policies of the IFC and for its day-to-day operations and activities, as directed by the IFC General Body.

### **Section II. IFC Executive Board Composition**

The IFC Executive Board shall be composed of the following positions with duties and responsibilities outlined within the IFC Bylaws:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. Vice President of Recruitment

### **Section III. IFC Executive Board Eligibility**

In order to serve as a member of the IFC Executive Board, individuals must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be an Active Member or New Member, in good standing, of a member fraternity.
- B. Maintain 2.75 GPA per semester and be in good academic standing with the Arkansas Tech University

- C. Must complete training as seen fit by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life such as the Annual Leadership Retreat.
- D. Must agree to Executive Office Expectations contract.

Only members from full IFC member organizations are permitted to serve as IFC officers, serve on the Judicial Board, or vote on Constitution and Bylaw amendments.

#### **Section IV. IFC Executive Board Meeting Policies**

The IFC Executive Board shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:

- A. The IFC Executive Board shall meet once a week.
- B. The IFC President or Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life, with 48 hours' notice, can call special meetings of the IFC Executive Board.
- C. Recurring absences from IFC Executive Board Meetings can result in the termination of that IFC Executive Board Member.

#### **Section V. Term**

- A. The officers shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are selected. The term of office will begin January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

#### **Section VI. IFC Executive Board Voting Policies**

The IFC Executive Board shall operate utilizing the following voting policies during IFC Executive Board meetings:

- A. Each IFC Executive Board member shall have one vote.
- B. The IFC President should refrain from casting his vote except for in the event of a tie. In such instances, the IFC President shall cast the deciding vote.
- C. There shall be no secret ballot votes.

#### **Section VII. IFC Executive Board Election Policies**

The following policies and procedures shall be utilized for the election and removal of IFC Executive Board officers:

- A. Executive Board elections shall be held annually during the fall term. If an office is vacated at any time before the annual elections, then a new officer shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- B. An IFC Slating Committee shall be formed for the election process and will determine the nominees for each office. Once selected, the nominees for each office shall be presented to the IFC for confirmation.
- C. Each IFC Slating Committee shall consist of IFC Executive Officers not running for reelection, the Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and one representative from each member fraternity.
- D. Any individual serving in an IFC Executive Board position may be removed from his position by a majority affirmative vote of the IFC General Body or at the discretion of the office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- E. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the IFC President, a special election shall be held within two meetings after the vacancy was created.

## **ARTICLE VII – IFC JUDICIAL COMMITTEE**

### **Section I. IFC Judicial Committee Jurisdiction**

The IFC shall be a peer-governing organization with an independent Judicial Committee, which shall have jurisdiction over cases involving alleged member fraternity violations, including but not limited to:

- A. The IFC Constitution and Bylaws, Code of Conduct, Fraternity and Sorority Life Office social policy, and other policies.
- B. Student Code of Conduct
- C. Other University Policies
- D. The general values-based conduct of fraternity men.

The IFC Judicial Board shall work with the campus to implement a comprehensive conduct program that enhances peer-governance; respects the authority of the campus to adjudicate alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct; and avoids multiple, overlapping conduct processes.

- A. The IFC Judicial Board shall defer to the campus to investigate and adjudicate hazing and sexual misconduct allegations, or any other allegation that is being investigated and/or adjudicated through the campus' conduct process.
- B. For all other instances—outside of hazing and sexual misconduct—the Standards Board has the autonomy and responsibility to adjudicate chapter-level violations.

### **Section II. IFC Judicial Committee Composition**

The IFC Judicial Committee shall be composed of one IFC Justice from each member fraternity, chosen by that member fraternity, and shall be chaired by the IFC Vice President of Standards. In order to serve as the IFC Justice for a member fraternity on the IFC Judicial Committee, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be an Active Member or New Member, in good standing, of an IFC member fraternity.
- B. Maintain good academic standing with the institution.
- C. Be devoted to the general ideas and principles of fraternity life and conduct himself in a professional manner consistent with the mission and purpose of the IFC, as defined within this Constitution.
- D. Have a working knowledge of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, ATU campus policies, and NIC Standards.
- E. Will serve their term of office until their graduation, resignation, or replacement under the procedures determined by each member chapter; or upon his election to serve on the IFC Executive Board or as his member chapter's IFC Representative or Alternate Representative for the IFC General Body.
- F. Must complete formal judicial policies and procedures training prior to serving on an IFC Judicial Board hearing.

### **Section III. IFC Judicial Policy**

- A. The Judicial Committee shall perform all duties and be subject to all regulations contained within the IFC Judicial Policy in the Bylaws.

- B. The IFC will provide annual training to member chapters on its IFC Judicial Code.
- C. In the Absence of a Judicial Board, the IFC Executive Board shall have the ability to promote and execute the pertinent sanctions to the fraternity involved.

### **Section III. IFC Judicial Board Hearing Justice Selection**

The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs will ask the member fraternities to select one (1) Judicial Board justice from each chapter to hear a case. In the event the IFC Judicial Board hearing falls upon a member chapter, that is involved in any way, with the alleged violation, the rotation will skip that chapter and comprise of the other member chapters.

### **Section IV. IFC Judicial Board Hearing Attendance**

All IFC Judicial Board hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the following requirements:

- A. All IFC Justices assigned to an IFC Judicial Board hearing shall be present in order to conduct business on behalf of the IFC Judicial Committee.
- D. Each IFC Justice assigned to an IFC Judicial Board hearing is required to attend the hearing. Failure of an IFC Justice to attend an IFC Judicial Board hearing for which he was assigned shall result in his member fraternity being referred to the IFC Vice President of Standards for potential Standards review.
  - 1. If the IFC Justice is absent without at least 24 hours' notice to the Vice President of Standards, it will result in an automatic \$30.00 fine assessed to the chapter that must be paid within one week of the missed hearing.

### **Section V. IFC Judicial Board Hearing Voting Policies**

All IFC Judicial Board hearings shall operate utilizing the following voting policies:

- A. Each IFC Justice serving on an IFC Judicial Board hearing shall have one vote.
- B. A majority shall govern all actions of an IFC Judicial Board.
- C. The IFC Vice President of Standards shall only have a vote in the event of a tie, in which his vote is the deciding vote.

## **ARTICLE VIII – IFC COMMITTEES**

### **Section I. Ad Hoc Committees**

The IFC Executive Board or the IFC President may form ad hoc committees as deemed necessary to perform the work of the IFC. The IFC President shall appoint the ad hoc committee chairman and committee members with the concurrence of the IFC Executive Board.

### **Section II. IFC Committee Meeting Policies**

All committees of the IFC shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:

- A. A two-thirds (2/3) of committee members present shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct committee business.
- B. Each committee shall meet as called by its committee chair.

## **ARTICLE IX – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

### **Section I. Constitutional Amendments**



This Constitution may be amended by a majority affirmative vote of the IFC General Body provided notice of the proposed amendment has been provided to Member Fraternities at the preceding regularly scheduled business meeting of the IFC General Body.

## **Section II. Adoption**

This Constitution shall become effective and shall supersede all previous Constitutions of the IFC when adopted by a majority affirmative vote of the IFC General Body.

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