

Interfraternity Council Constitution

Preamble

We, the fraternities of The Johns Hopkins University, with the understanding that we are contributing members of the University and surrounding communities, establish this Constitution. In order to advance our intellectual, cultural, and social goals, we endow the Interfraternity Council with the powers and responsibilities outlined herein. To take full advantage of its position as an administrative and legislative body, we pledge to abide by its Constitution and Bylaws, allowing for the establishment of greater cooperation among fraternities and their members towards the end of improving the individual organizations.

Article I: Goals & Responsibilities

1. The governing body of all NIC organizations at the Johns Hopkins University shall henceforth be named the Interfraternity Council, abbreviated IFC.
2. The Interfraternity Council shall:
 - a. Represent the individual fraternities of the Johns Hopkins University as a collective governing body.
 - b. Uphold and promote Fraternity Life in the Johns Hopkins University and community.
 - c. Serve as an intermediary between the social fraternal organizations, the Homewood area communities and their representatives, and the University administration and faculty.
 - d. Coordinate Interfraternity activities both on and off campus.
 - e. Conduct hearings, when appropriate, on judicial issues related to its members or member organizations.
3. To change or amend this Constitution, a three-fourths majority vote of the General Assembly is required. In the case of any oversight, Robert's Rules of Order shall be utilized.

Article II: Membership and Obligations

1. Membership
 - a. The general membership of the Interfraternity Council shall consist of all NIC fraternities of the Johns Hopkins University and all their respective members as determined by national or international headquarters. Any fraternity wishing to join the Interfraternity Council must follow the procedures outlined in Article II, Section D. Fraternity Expansion.
 - b. Those member organizations are:
 - i. Alpha Epsilon Pi
 - ii. Beta Theta Pi
 - iii. Phi Delta Theta
 - iv. Phi Gamma Delta
 - v. Phi Kappa Psi
 - vi. Delta Phi

- c. Colonies are not member organizations and, as such, shall not be granted the rights and privileges outlined herein. Because their actions reflect both on the University and Fraternity Life at Johns Hopkins, colonies shall be required to follow IFC policy regarding policy issues including, but not limited to, recruitment, orientation, and hazing.
 - d. Until such time as a colony is administered membership for IFC, colonies have the right to represent themselves in a non-voting capacity at all IFC General Assembly meetings.
2. Member Obligations. All member obligations must be satisfied for a member organization to be considered in "good standing". Each member organization shall:
- a. Be responsible for upholding its own Constitution and Bylaws.
 - b. Be required to represent themselves at all IFC General Assembly meetings in accordance with the IFC Constitution and Bylaws.
 - c. Be required to pay all dues and fines in a timely fashion.
 - d. Recognize and adhere to, in order of precedence:
 - i. Federal, State, and Local law.
 - ii. University rules and regulations.
 - iii. IFC judicial sanctions, pending appeals.
3. Membership Rights and Privileges. Every member organization in good standing shall:
- a. Be extended the rights and privileges of all IFC member organizations.
 - b. Maintain the right to advocacy by the IFC in all public relations, judicial, and University matters.
 - c. Retain the right to an equitable judicial hearing.
 - d. Have the right to vote in all matters brought before the IFC General Assembly.
 - e. Be assured the protection of all other rights and privileges within the IFC Constitution and Bylaws

Article III: Organization

1. IFC General Assembly
- a. The IFC General Assembly shall be the main governing and legislative body of the IFC. It shall be composed of up to two representatives of each member organization, the IFC Executive Board, and the Coordinator of Leadership Engagement & Experiential Development. It shall be responsible for:
 - i. Electing IFC Executive Board members.
 - ii. Approving appointments of the Executive Board.
 - iii. Presenting, deliberating upon, and establishing regulations and policies to promote the goals of the IFC and Fraternity Life in the University and surrounding communities.
 - b. Representation shall conform to the following:

- i. Each organization shall designate two of its individual members to serve as representatives and a third as an alternate. In addition, the President of each member fraternity may serve as a default voting representative.
 - ii. Each member organization shall be allowed a maximum of two votes, one for each representative, in all issues brought before the General Assembly.
 - iii. While IFC meetings are open to the public and individual fraternity members are encouraged to participate, only the two official, recognized IFC representatives, alternate, or chapter President from each group shall be allowed to cast either of a group's two votes.
 - c. Quorum shall consist of the presence of at least one representative from 2/3 of the member organizations in the IFC.
 - d. The IFC General Assembly shall meet no fewer than six times per semester, at the discretion of the Executive Board.
 - e. Special meetings of an all-purpose or limited nature may be called by a majority vote of the Executive Board or General Assembly.
2. IFC Executive Board
 - a. Each member of the Executive Board must be from a different member organization. The Executive Board shall consist of:
 - i. President
 - ii. VP of Judicial Affairs
 - iii. VP of Finance & Administration
 - iv. VP of Recruitment
 - v. VP of Member Development
 - vi. VP of Community Relations
 - vii. VP of Special Programming
 - b. The Executive Board shall have the power to impose fines or initiate judicial procedures against members and member organizations not fulfilling their obligations.
 - c. The Executive Board may create ad hoc committees and shall have jurisdiction over the operations of these committees.
 - d. The term of office for the Executive Board begins January 1st and ends December 31st each year.
 - e. The Executive Board has a voice in matters but does not possess a vote in the General Assembly except the President in the case of a tie.
 - f. The Executive Board shall meet not fewer than six times per academic semester.
 - g. Vacancies on the Executive Board are filled by the President's appointment and subsequent approval by vote of the General Assembly.
3. Standing Committees - There shall be two standing committees, the IFC Programming Board and the IFC Judicial Board.
 - a. IFC Programming Board

- i. The IFC Programming Board Chair shall be elected during Executive Board elections.
 - ii. The Programming Board shall follow the policies, procedures, and operational guidelines set forth in the IFC Programming Board Bylaws.
 - b. IFC Judicial Board
 - i. The IFC Judicial Board Chair shall be elected during Executive Board elections.
 - ii. The IFC Judicial Board shall follow the policies, procedures, and operational guidelines set forth in the IFC Judicial Board Bylaws.
4. Ad Hoc Committees
 - a. The IFC Executive Board shall have the power to establish ad hoc committees at its discretion.
 - b. The IFC Executive Board shall have jurisdiction over the operations of all such committees.
 - c. All actions of an ad hoc committee may be considered official pending approval by the General Assembly.
 - d. Ad hoc committee membership shall be open to any official IFC representative.
 - e. The Executive Board shall appoint a Chair for all ad hoc committees from among the members volunteering for the committee.
 - f. No ad hoc committee may have two representatives from the same member organization.
 - g. Committees with particular operational procedures, such as an Impeachment Committee, shall conform to their own laws before falling subject to the above requirements.

Article IV: Officer Duties

1. Executive Board
 - a. The duties and responsibilities of the IFC President are as follows:
 - i. Provide guidance and focus to the efforts of the General Body and Executive Committee.
 - ii. Resolve all disputes, questions, and/or concerns regarding procedures and regulations of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order in an unbiased manner
 - iii. Preside over all meetings of the General Body and Executive Committee.
 - iv. Cast the final vote in the event of a tie.
 - v. Build rapport and establish positive working relationships between IFC and member chapter leaders.
 - vi. Serve as the official spokesperson for the fraternity community
 - vii. Establish positive working relationships with campus and local law enforcement agencies.
 - viii. Regularly interact with the leaders of other governing councils and campus organizations.
 - ix. Establish a working relationship with key college administrators.
 - x. Establish a working relationship with and communicate campus data, issues, and trends in a timely manner to the NIC.

- xi. Maintain current information for accurate member chapter rosters.
- b. The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs are as follows:
 - i. Serve as chair of the IFC Judicial Board and serve as the non-voting Chief Justice of all IFC Judicial Board hearings.
 - ii. Investigate and refer to the IFC Judicial Board alleged violations of IFC policy, including but not limited to:
 - 1. The IFC Constitution, Bylaws, and policies;
 - 2. Federal, state, and local laws;
 - 3. The rules and regulations of campus; and
 - 4. The general values-based conduct of fraternity men.
 - iii. Ensure proper filing and preparation for all judicial actions.
 - iv. Ensure compliance with all IFC judicial action imposed upon a member chapter.
 - v. Educate member chapters on the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, judicial processes, and risk management policies.
 - vi. Conduct judicial policy and procedures training for new IFC Judicial Board justices.
 - vii. Assist in conflict mediation between member chapters.
 - viii. Review all IFC governance documents, at least annually.
- c. The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Vice President of Finance & Administration are as follows:
 - i. Serve as chair of the IFC Finance Committee.
 - ii. Supervise the annual budget process.
 - iii. Collect IFC member chapter dues or other assessments as needed.
 - iv. Maintain accurate records throughout the year through invoicing and receipts.
 - v. Review and approve all IFC Expenditure Request Forms and IFC Reimbursement Request Forms.
 - vi. Make all disbursements with a cosigner.
 - vii. Prepare financial statements monthly and at the end of each term for distribution to all member chapters.
 - viii. Make bank deposits when necessary and in a timely manner.
 - ix. Provide advice and support to member chapter financial officers.
- d. The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Vice President of Recruitment are as follows:
 - i. Work with member chapters to establish a recruitment process that meets the needs of chapters and potential new members, as well as provides opportunities for interested men to learn about the fraternity experience.
 - ii. Will focus on fostering interest in joining fraternities and marketing the fraternity experience to incoming students and potential new members.
 - iii. Serve as chair of the IFC Recruitment Committee.
 - iv. Utilize technology (social media, etc.) in recruitment and marketing efforts.

- v. Produce and distribute promotional materials to all incoming students and unaffiliated students.
 - vi. Develop recruitment workshops and programs for member chapters.
 - vii. Uphold the IFC Recruitment Policy and ensure no restrictive policies are placed on new member recruitment and will not restrict the ability of chapters to distribute bids outside of any designated recruitment period.
 - viii. Maintain an interest list of Potential New Members.
 - ix. Collect and maintain accurate New Member Rosters for each member chapter.
 - x. Provide advice and support to member chapter recruitment officers.
- e. The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Vice President of Member Development are as follows:
- i. Develop opportunities for continuing member education by collaborating with alumni, campus offices and departments, and student organizations to offer educational programming covering the following topics: academic achievement, alcohol consumption, career preparation, civic engagement, hazing, leadership development, sexual assault/abuse, and values and ethics.
 - ii. Educate member chapters on the NIC Health and Safety Guidelines, the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, judicial processes, and risk management policies.
 - iii. Assist member chapters in the implementation of and compliance with the NIC Alcohol & Drug Guidelines.
 - iv. Coordinate Health and Safety efforts with other councils and stakeholders
 - v. Coordinate a scholarship chair orientation program for member chapters.
 - vi. Collect and distribute academic performance rankings.
 - vii. Provide advice and support to member chapter scholarship officers.
 - viii. Coordinate diversity and inclusion programming for member chapters.
 - ix. Promote inclusion within member chapters in order to make the fraternity community more welcoming and inclusive to individuals from diverse backgrounds.
 - x. Publish important educational programming dates and deadlines.
- f. The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Vice President of Community Relations are as follows:
- i. Serve as secretary of the IFC General Body.
 - ii. Develop and execute a public relations and social media strategy.
 - iii. Develop service projects and philanthropic events for member chapters.
 - iv. Collect and report member chapter community service hours, philanthropic dollars, and activities.
 - v. Collect and disseminate information on the fraternity community to all campus and community media sources.
 - vi. Keep the media informed on upcoming events or potential news.
 - vii. Establish a positive working relationship with external constituents.

- viii. Assist in the development of various IFC publications and outreach programs.
 - ix. Provide advice and support to member chapter community service/philanthropy officers.
- g. The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Vice President of Special Programming are as follows:
- i. Collaborate with other council chairs to organize the annual Greek Weekend
 - ii. Collaborate with other council chairs to organize the annual Hazing Prevention Week
 - iii. This position will run from January to the end of September (once both events have concluded).

Article V: Officer Removal

1. Any official representative from among the General Assembly may move to remove any officer, including, but not limited to, Executive Board members and standing or ad hoc Committee Chairs. Such a motion must:
 - a. Be a written document, formally presented and read at an official meeting of the General Assembly and distributed to General Assembly members.
 - b. Contain a list of formal charges detailing the manner in which the officer violated IFC rules, regulations, or policies.
2. After hearing and understanding the charges, the General Assembly shall vote to create an ad hoc Impeachment Committee.
 - a. If the vote fails, the motion to impeach fails.
 - b. If the vote passes, the motion to impeach succeeds and the Executive Board must establish an ad hoc Impeachment Committee.
3. Impeachment Committee
 - a. Each organization shall select one of its members to represent the group to the Impeachment Committee. This representative may not be a member of the IFC Executive Board or his constituent organization's President.
 - b. The IFC Vice President shall Chair the Impeachment Committee. If the Vice President is the accused, then the Treasurer shall chair the Committee. The Chair shall make regular updates to the Coordinator of Leadership Engagement & Experiential Development.
 - c. The Impeachment Committee shall be empowered to interview and find facts relevant to the charges issued.
 - d. The Impeachment Committee shall be required to come to a determination of whether or not the charges appear to be valid, and, if so, whether they may constitute a violation of IFC rules, regulations, and policies. The Committee must present its findings not more than three weeks after the issuing of the charges.
 - e. The Impeachment Committee may announce either of the following determinations to the General Assembly:

- i. The charges are unfounded, in which case the Committee is dissolved and no officer is removed from office.
- ii. The charges are founded, in which case the Impeachment Committee Chair shall motion to remove the accused officer. After a limited debate, where both sides are given the opportunity to present their cases, the General Assembly will vote on the removal of the officer.

Article VI: Fraternity Expansion

1. In the event a new fraternity wishes to become part of Johns Hopkins University and be officially recognized by the Interfraternity Council, the following conditions must be met:
 - a. Fraternities may not join campus at a rate exceeding one fraternity every two calendar years.
 - b. No founding members may be First-Year Students.
 - c. The interest group must have the support of a national or international fraternity.
 - d. The interest group must have a minimum of 20 men on their roster. A student will be considered to be on the interest group's roster when he has submitted a signed pledge card.
 - e. No student who is on academic probation with Johns Hopkins University is permitted to be part of the interest group or colony, and may not participate in colonization or new member activities of the group.
 - f. The men must send a representative to an official meeting of the Interfraternity Council in order to give a brief presentation.
 - i. In the presentation, they must state what is different about the chapter they are bringing, and what they plan to offer to the IFC community.
 - ii. The interest group must have an aggregate cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0, as determined by the same method as that used to calculate chapter GPAs, before it may make a presentation to the Interfraternity Council.
 - iii. There must be a chapter alumnus within 100 miles of Johns Hopkins that has agreed to be the chapter advisor.