

*University of Washington Interfraternity Council Constitution*  
*Ratified on December 8, 2023*

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## MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Interfraternity Council at the University of Washington set forth this Constitution in order to cause closer working relationships and coordination among our member Fraternities and the University of Washington, in accordance with the policies and standards established by the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC).

## ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE OF THE IFC

### 1.1 NAME

This organization shall be known as the Interfraternity Council (IFC) at the University of Washington.

### 1.2 PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the IFC shall be to:
  - a. Provide a vital and articulate instrument for member fraternities in order to secure harmony in inter-fraternal relationships.
  - b. Preside and act as the representative central government of member fraternities of the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) at the University of Washington.
  - c. To promote the welfare of the students within the individual fraternities.
  - d. To solve the problems common to all its members to their mutual benefit.
  - e. To establish cooperation between the fraternities and the University Finance and Administration, University community and the general public in matters relevant to fraternity life.
  - f. Uphold the core values of the Greek Community at the University of Washington: Scholarship, Leadership, Philanthropy, Brotherhood, and Service.

## ARTICLE II: IFC MEMBERSHIP

### 2.1 MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

1. Membership in the IFC is open to chapters and colonies of fraternities at the University of Washington, as follows:
  - a. The National fraternity must comply with the expansion policy as outlined in Article 9 of the IFC Bylaws.
  - b. Any chapter or colony of a North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) member organization shall hold membership in the IFC upon being accepted by the IFC. Established chapters must meet the requirements set forth in Section 2.4
  - c. 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. These fraternities will need to follow the procedures and meet the expectations listed in Section 2.4, as well as seek an approval of the Legislative Council by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote.

## 2.2 MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS FOR MEMBER FRATERNITIES

1. The membership classification of Member Fraternities shall be as follows:
  - a. Full Member: Any fraternity chapter which has obtained its charter from its inter/national 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 inter/national organization. Associate Membership grants the Member Fraternity all rights, privileges, and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and By-Laws, except that an Associate Member Fraternity member cannot run for an IFC Standards Board Justice position, hold a leadership role on any IFC sponsored committee, or vote in any Legislative Council meeting.

## 2.3 REFERENCING MEMBER FRATERNITIES

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

## 2.4 MEMBER FRATERNITY MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS

1. 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:
    - a. The IFC Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, Recognition Agreement and other policies.
    - b. All local, state, and federal laws and University of Washington policies.
    - c. The general values-based conduct of fraternity men.
  - b. The chapter must maintain a 3.0 GPA, on a four-point scale, during the quarter in which they undergo new member education, as calculated by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL).
  - c. Active membership must maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA each quarter, on a four-point scale as calculated by the OFSL.
  - d. Each Member Fraternity shall be current on all IFC dues owed. Any Member Fraternity delinquent of financial obligations after the established deadline is subject to fines, penalties, and/or immediate suspension of IFC recognition as determined by the Director of Finance and Administration with the guidance of the Chief Justice. Payment plans may be set up with the Director of Finance and Administration.
  - e. Each Member Fraternity shall comply with the attendance policies for the IFC Legislative Council and the IFC Standards Board, as outlined within this Constitution.
  - f. Each Member Fraternity must be in good standing with its National Headquarters as well as the University of Washington.

- g. Each Member Fraternity must be current with all documentation required by IFC and the University of Washington.
- h. Each member fraternity on a quarterly basis shall update/confirm all critical information asked for by the IFC Director of Finance and Administration.
- i. IFC recognizes Sam's Law and requires its member fraternities to provide notice on their website of the previous five years of all findings of violations of anti-hazing policies, state or federal laws related to hazing, alcohol, drugs, sexual assault, or physical assault, or the institution's code of conduct against the local chapter.

Compliance of Sam's Law reporting will be enforced by the IFC Chief Justice. If disagreements arise concerning equitable reporting or enforcement of reporting, the matter should be brought before the IFC Standards Board to resolve.

## 2.5 FAILURE TO MEET MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS

1. A Member Fraternity which has failed to meet one or more of the minimum expectations outlined in this Section may be placed on probation, with a majority vote of the IFC Executive Board, until that Fraternity meets with the IFC Standards Board to develop an appropriate course of action to correct the problem(s).

## 2.6 MEMBERSHIP STATUS FOR MEMBER FRATERNITIES

1. The membership status of Member Fraternities shall be as follows:
  - a. Good Standing: A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be in Good Standing if the Member Fraternity is not currently operating under IFC sanctions and is currently meeting the minimum expectations outlined in Section 2.4 of this Article.
  - b. Probation: The Member Fraternity loses voting rights while on probation. The IFC Standards Board is able to give additional sanctions as a result of a Member Fraternities probation status.
  - c. Suspension: The Member Fraternity loses voting rights, as well as all other rights and privileges of IFC membership while on suspension. This includes but is not limited to: loss of the recruitment list, inability to attend IFC sponsored events, and any other loss of rights and privileges as determined by the IFC Standards Board.
  - d. Social Probation: A Member Fraternity under social probation is still able to host social events; however, if there are social violations while the chapter is under a social probation, the violations will be looked at with stricter scrutiny and a level 2 hearing may be opened as a result of violations of social probation.
  - e. Social Suspension: The Member Fraternity is not able to host any events that would be classified as an event under 8.1 of the IFC Bylaws. The Member Fraternity cannot co-host wet social events, but is still able to host dry social

events. If there are social violations during the term of suspension, a level 2 hearing may be opened as a result of the violation.

## 2.7 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER DEFINITIONS

1. 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 the University of Washington.
  - b. New Member: A New Member shall be defined as any man who has accepted a bid to join a fraternity at the University of Washington, but has not been initiated into that fraternity.
  - c. Potential New Member: A Potential New Member shall be defined as any man who is admitted to the University of Washington or has expressed interest in joining a fraternity at the University of Washington, but has yet to accept a bid from a fraternity at the University of Washington.
  - d. Non-Member: A Non-Member shall be defined as any individual who is neither an Active Member or New Member of any fraternity at the University of Washington.

## ARTICLE III: IFC LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### 3.1 IFC LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The powers of the IFC shall be vested in the IFC Legislative Council. The IFC Legislative Council 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 individual sovereignty of each Member Fraternity and shall not relinquish any governance authority to any other governing body.

### 3.2 IFC LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMPOSITION

1. The IFC Legislative Council shall be composed of voting IFC Representatives from each Member Fraternity.

### 3.3 IFC REPRESENTATIVES

1. Each Member Fraternity shall have one IFC Representative. The default chapter delegate to the IFC will be the chapter President. When the chapter President has an excusable absence, the President must send an official delegate in their stead. The official delegate will then be a voting member of the Legislative Council.

### 3.4 IFC REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE ELIGIBILITY

1. In order to serve as the IFC Representative or Alternate Representative for a Member Fraternity, individuals must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Be an Active Member or New Member, in good standing, of a Member Fraternity.
  - b. Maintain good academic standing with the University of Washington.
  - c. Be devoted to the general ideals 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, University of Washington policies, NIC Health and Safety Standards, and all applicable fraternal industry risk management policies.
  - e. Not be a current member of the IFC Executive Board.

### 3.5 IFC LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING POLICIES

1. The IFC Legislative Council shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:
  - a. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the procedure of all meetings of the Legislative Council. In cases where a conflict exists between the bylaws or constitution and Robert's Rules of Order, the bylaws or constitution shall take precedence.
  - b. A quorum shall be two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the membership of the Legislative Council in good standing.
  - c. The date, time, and location of the meetings shall be chosen at the discretion of the IFC President.
  - d. Guests will be allowed to attend meetings subject to approval by the IFC President.
  - e. The IFC Legislative Council shall meet at least four (4) times during each academic quarter (excluding Summer quarter).
  - f. Special meetings may be called by the IFC President, four (4) voting members of the Executive Board, or one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of the Legislative Council members in good standing, provided that a twenty-four (24) hour advance notice be given for the meeting.
  - g. Each Member Fraternity's IFC Representative or Alternate Representative is required to attend all meetings of the IFC. More than one unexcused absence per academic quarter shall result in the Member Fraternity losing voting privileges for the remainder of the quarter.

### 3.6 IFC LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VOTING POLICIES

1. The IFC Legislative Council shall operate utilizing the following voting policies:
  - a. Each Member Fraternity, in good standing, shall have one vote.
  - b. Individuals holding IFC Executive Board positions are not entitled to a vote.

- c. In the event of a tie, the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote. In the event that the President is unable to preside over the meeting, the presiding officer shall be the next in-line IFC officer.
- d. With the exception of the election of IFC Executive Board positions, there shall be no secret ballot votes.

## **ARTICLE IV: IFC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **4.1 IFC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1. 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 Legislative Council.

### **4.2 IFC EXECUTIVE BOARD COMPOSITION**

1. 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. Chief Justice
  - d. Director of Recruitment
  - e. Director of Programming
  - f. Director of Public Relations
  - g. Director of Finance and Administration

### **4.3 IFC EXECUTIVE BOARD ELIGIBILITY**

1. In order to apply for, or be elected as a member of the IFC Executive Board, the individual must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Be an Active Member or New Member, in good standing, of a Member Fraternity in good standing.
  - b. Fulfill all IFC Executive Board requirements as outlined in the IFC Bylaws.
  - c. Must be enrolled as a full-time matriculated undergraduate student at the University of Washington.

### **4.4 IFC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING POLICIES**

1. The IFC Executive Board shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:
  - a. Use of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used at the discretion of the IFC Vice President.
  - b. A majority of IFC Executive Board members present shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct IFC Executive Board business.



- c. The IFC Executive Board shall conduct regularly scheduled meetings on a weekly basis.
- d. Special meetings may be called by the IFC President with notice of the time, location, and purpose of the special meeting provided to each IFC Executive Board member at least 72 hours in advance.
- e. Each IFC Executive Board member is required to attend all meetings of the IFC Executive Board and all meetings of the IFC Legislative Council. Absences may result in removal from office.

#### 4.5 IFC EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTING POLICIES

- 1. 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.

#### 4.6 IFC EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS POLICIES

- 1. The following policies and procedures shall be utilized for the election and removal of IFC Executive Board officers:
  - a. Applications
    - i. Applications will be released on a date determined by the Executive Board prior to elections.
    - ii. Applications will be accepted from any member of a chapter in good standing with the IFC.
    - iii. The application will include the candidates name and position for which they are running, as well as a supplemental application designed by the Executive Board and the OFSL staff members.
    - iv. The Vice President and the respective Director will determine the candidates that will be slated for voting. They will slate no more than three (3) candidates for each position. No officer running in the upcoming elections is allowed to slate candidates. In such a case, the IFC President will assign another member of the Executive Board to review the applications.
    - v. Prior to elections, the Vice President will distribute a complete list of all candidates and the positions for which they are running.
    - vi. On the day of elections, the President will read off the current candidates' names and the positions for which they plan to run.
  - b. Election Procedures
    - i. Elections will be held annually at a special meeting in Fall Quarter. The exact date of Elections will be set by the Executive Board.
    - ii. The order of elections will proceed in successive order. The officer's succession order is as follows: President, Vice President, Chief Justice,

Director of Recruitment, Director of Programming, Director of Public Relations, and Director of Finance and Administration.

- iii. Alphabetical order of each candidate's last name will determine the order of elections.
  - iv. All positions will require a simple majority of the votes cast to declare a winner.
  - v. An abstention will count as a vote for the majority decision and its number included in the total vote count. Only members in good standing may vote.
  - vi. Each chapter will hold one (1) vote for each elected position. In the event that the current chapter President/delegate cannot attend elections, he may send an appointed proxy from his chapter in his place.
  - vii. Voting by absentee ballot is not allowed.
  - viii. Voting will be conducted by secret ballot. Each voting member will receive a ballot and then will submit his vote to the Director of Finance and Administration who will then tally them.
  - ix. If there is only one candidate running for a position, he will require a vote of confidence that requires a simple majority.
  - x. The Director of Finance and Administration will be responsible for keeping time during elections.
  - xi. If the Director of Finance and Administration is running in an election, any other Executive Board member may carry out his duties.
  - xii. The following are procedures for elections with more than two candidates: after the first round, the two candidates with the most votes will continue, unless there are already enough votes for one candidate to be declared victor. In the event that one or more candidates are tied for second place, there will be a runoff between those candidates to determine who will advance to the second round to face the candidate with the most votes.
  - xiii. Order of Candidate Presentation:
    1. PRESIDENT: Five (5) minute speech, followed by three (3) minute question and answer session, followed by discussion.
    2. ALL OTHER OFFICERS: Three (3) minute speech, followed by two (2) minute question and answer session, followed by discussion.
  - xiv. During the question and answer session, members of the Legislative Body will be able to ask the candidate any relevant questions regarding their platform.
  - xv. Discussion will take place after the question and answer session and will run for a maximum of ten (10) minutes.
- c. Vacancy on The Executive Board
- i. In the event that an officer of the Executive Board (with the exception of President) is vacated in mid-term, the President will make an interim appointment, with the approval of a simple majority of the Executive Board, to fill that office until the appointed officer can be confirmed by a simple majority vote at the next Legislative Council meeting.

- ii. If the office of the President is vacated mid-term, the Vice President will assume the duties of that office until a special election can be held at the next Legislative Council meeting.

## **ARTICLE V: IFC STANDARDS BOARD**

### **5.1 JURISDICTION**

1. The IFC shall be a self-governing organization with an independent Standards Board which shall be vested with the power to hear all cases brought to the Interfraternity Council by the Office of the Vice President of Student Life, the University of Washington or Seattle Police Departments, or any other concerned party. It shall also be charged with the responsibility to uphold:
  - a. The IFC Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, and other policies.
  - b. The rules and regulations of the University of Washington.
  - c. The general values-based conduct of fraternity men.
2. The IFC Standards Board shall also have the jurisdictional authority to recommend clemency for chapters, as outlined in 4.2.8 of the IFC Bylaws

### **5.2 COMPOSITION**

1. The Standards Board shall consist of:
  - a. The Chief Justice who shall chair the committee except in cases where his fraternity is involved, in which case a temporary replacement shall be appointed by the IFC President.
  - b. Eleven (11) undergraduate chapter representatives, no two of which may be affiliated with the same fraternity.
  - c. An OFSL staff member will serve as a non-voting Standards Board Advisor.

### **5.3 ELIGIBILITY**

1. To be eligible for membership on the Standards Board a candidate must be a fully matriculated undergraduate student at the University of Washington student in good standing with his respective fraternity. Candidates must also maintain a 3.0 cumulative Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale.

### **5.4 TERM OF OFFICE OF IFC JUSTICES**

1. Each Standard Board member shall serve from the time of approval until he:
  - a. Graduates.
  - b. Voluntarily resigns.
  - c. Fails to meet eligibility requirements.
  - d. Is removed for failing to meet the minimum attendance requirements
  - e. Is removed for cause at the discretion of the IFC President and Chief Justice

## 5.5 IFC JUDICIAL POLICY

1. The IFC Standards Board shall perform all duties and be subject to all regulations contained within the IFC Standards Board policies outlined in the IFC Bylaws.

## 5.6 IFC JUSTICE REQUIREMENTS

1. IFC Justices are required to attend every Standards Board meeting. In the event that a Standards Board Justice misses two (2) or more required meetings in one quarter, that IFC Justice is subject to removal from their position by a simple majority vote of the IFC President, Vice President, and Chief Justice.
2. Board members are expected to maintain a strict level of confidentiality with the corresponding cases and information provided and Standards Board members are expected to attend all Standards Board meetings.

## 5.7 VOTING POLICIES

1. Each member of the board, not including the IFC Chief Justice and Standards Board Advisor (or any other designated non-voting member), shall be entitled to one vote and all decision shall require a majority vote. In the event that a case shall concern a chapter who has a representative on the Standards Board, that representative will not serve on that case, including the Chief Justice. In the event of a tie, the Interfraternity Council Chief Justice (or the individual chairing the meeting) shall cast the majority vote.

## **ARTICLE VI: IFC COMMITTEES**

### 6.1 AD HOC COMMITTEES

1. An IFC Executive Officer may form ad hoc committees as deemed necessary to perform the work of the IFC with the majority approval of the IFC Executive Board. The IFC Executive Officer overseeing the ad hoc committee shall appoint the ad hoc committee chairman and the committee members with the concurrence of the IFC Executive Board.

### 6.2 COMMITTEE MEETING POLICIES

1. All committees of the IFC shall conduct meetings according to the following requirements:
  - a. A majority of committee members shall constitute quorum in order to conduct committee business.
  - b. Each committee shall meet as called by its committee chair or overseeing IFC Executive Officer.

## **ARTICLE VII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

### 7.1 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) affirmative vote of the IFC Legislative Council provided notice of the proposed amendment has been provided to Member Fraternities at the preceding regularly scheduled business meeting of the IFC Legislative Council.

## 7.2 ADOPTIONS

1. This Constitution shall become effective and shall supersede all previous Constitutions of the IFC when adopted by a three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) affirmative vote of the IFC Legislative Council.