

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE  
INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL**

Voted on November 6th, 2017

Preamble

We, the gentlemen of the Texas A&M University-Commerce Greek system, believe that Greek life is an integral aspect of higher education. In order to strengthen the fraternity community, increase participation in Greek life, and serve Texas A&M University-Commerce and surrounding communities, we do ordain and establish this Constitution.

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be "The Texas A&M University-Commerce Interfraternity Council," and shall be abbreviated as "IFC."

Article II

Mission Statement

The Interfraternity Council is the representative government for all currently recognized member fraternities. Our mission is to represent these organizations as a self-governing body to facilitate and promote the Greek experience.

Article III

Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this Interfraternity Council shall be:

- A. To promote and maintain a strong and well respected environment for fraternities at Texas A&M University-Commerce;
- B. Act as the representative government for all IFC member fraternities;
- C. To serve as a student organization recognized by Texas A&M University-Commerce, providing an entity through which member fraternities may be recognized by the University;
- D. To provide a Judicial Board to adjudicate matters involving violations of the Constitution and Bylaws of this Interfraternity Council;
- E. To be in compliance with the NIC Position on Open Recruitment.
- F. Promote healthy interfraternity competition in scholarship, athletics, and other activities;

- G. Cooperate with the University, campus and local community organizations on matters of common interest;
- H. Provide educational opportunities and informational services that will aid member fraternities;
- I. The IFC will serve as the Chief Advocate and spokesperson for the fraternity community to the University Administration;
- J. Promote Greek life by informing the University, non-Greek, and the surrounding community of the merits and accomplishments of the Interfraternity Council.

## ARTICLE IV

### Scope of Authority and Powers

Section 1. The scope of authority for the IFC shall be legislative, administrative, judicial, and advisory. Additionally, this Constitution shall grant the Council the Authority to regulate all matters of Interfraternity interest.

Section 2. Any state or local laws, and/or any Texas A&M University-Commerce regulations that conflict with any article of this Constitution shall take precedence.

Section 3. This Constitution and Bylaws, dated \_\_\_\_\_ supersede any and all prior Constitution and Bylaws of the Texas A&M University – Commerce Interfraternity Council Bylaws.

## Article V

### Membership

Section 1. The TAMUC Interfraternity Council shall be comprised of any North American Interfraternity Conference(NIC), but still inter/national fraternity recognized by TAMUC as a recognized student organization whose purpose is to cultivate fraternalism among its members.

### Section 2. Maintaining Membership status

- A. In order for a chapter to retain full membership status in the Interfraternity Council the following criteria must be met:
  - 1. The fraternity must maintain the minimum number of members required by its inter/national organization to remain in good standing.
  - 2. The fraternity must maintain an overall grade point ratio (GPA) of 2.5.
  - 3. Failure to meet either, or both, of the said criteria shall result in actions determined by the IFC Judicial board.

Section 3. In matters of colonization the IFC will work with all NIC member fraternities and non NIC member organizations to ensure those groups are operating in environments that are conducive to their success.

Section 4. The IFC supports and is in compliance with the NIC Position on Open Expansion and the Texas A&M University-Commerce Expansion Policy.

## ARTICLE VI

### Administrative Body

Section 1. The administrative body of this organization shall be called the Executive Council and shall be responsible for overseeing all duties and operations of the IFC.

Section 2. The Executive Council shall be elected and include: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President will also serve as Parliamentarian.

Section 3. Officers of Interfraternity Executive Council shall consist of recognized members in good/regular standing within their individual fraternities and holding active membership (1 semester) in the Interfraternity Council prior to executive nominations.

Section 4. A chapter president shall not be eligible to run for the offices of IFC President, Executive Vice President/President.

Section 5. Chapter recruitment officers shall not concurrently hold the IFC Executive Vice President/President.

Section 6. The term of office for all Executive Council Officers of the IFC Executive Council shall be one year.

Section 7. The election, transition and installation of officers shall be in accordance with the IFC Bylaws.

## ARTICLE VII

### Legislative Body

Section 1. The legislative body of the Interfraternity Council shall be called the Interfraternity Council.

Section 2. The Interfraternity Council shall consist of a maximum of 2 representatives from each member fraternity. Both representatives must be the same for an entire semester. Each Fraternity will be allowed one vote per IFC meeting. Said representatives shall be of active standing and enrolled as a full-time student at TAMUC.

- A. An additional representative (bystander) will be allowed to attend in the event of any Interfraternity Council meeting but will have no say.
- B. One of the required representatives from each chapter must be an executive member of the given chapter.

Section 3. The assistant Director of Greek Life shall vote only in case of a tie in the Interfraternity Council.

## ARTICLE VIII

## Judicial Body

Section 1. The Interfraternity Council shall maintain an Interfraternity Council Judicial Board who shall be responsible for hearing, determining and responding to any written complaint regarding an infraction of the IFC Constitution, Bylaws. The J-Board will consist of the executive officers and an Ad-hoc member of each unrepresented fraternity voted on the IFC during elections.

Section 2. The operation and organization of the Board shall be in accordance with this Constitution and the Bylaws and Judicial Code it establishes.

## ARTICLE IX

### Meetings

Section 1. Regular sessions of the Interfraternity Council shall be held bi-weekly as designated by the President of the Interfraternity Council. A notice to all member fraternities shall be given two days prior to the meetings.

Section 2. In order to conduct official business, at least one of the chapter representatives must be present, which includes the members of the Executive Council, with the exception of the president.

Section 3. Each new representative will serve a permanent year position (in order that there will be overlap each semester: Senior and Junior Delegate). There must be at least one representative from each fraternity attending an Interfraternity Council meeting.

A. Penalties for being absent from meeting:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> week: \$50
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> week: \$100, 10% off of the end-of-semester Intramural Score.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> week: Suspension of voting privileges for the rest of the semester
4. 4<sup>th</sup> week: Advisor of IFC can take away certain privileges such as parties, intramurals, mixers, etc.

Section 4. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President of the Interfraternity Council or at the request of majority of the Interfraternity Council.

Section 5. Notice of special meetings shall be given by the Interfraternity Council President or, in case of his incapacitation, his designee 2 days prior to meeting.

Section 6. The order of business and protocol of all meetings of the Council shall abide and refer to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, except in those areas provided for in the Constitution.

## ARTICLE X

### Amendments

Any motion to amend, revise, alter, or revoke an article of this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the President/parliamentarian, and tabled after an initial reading of said motion in front of the Interfraternity Council. The said motion shall be voted upon at the next Interfraternity Council session and require a majority affirmative vote to be amended.

## ARTICLE XI

### Bylaws and Amendments to the Bylaw

Section 1. The Interfraternity Council Bylaws become effective upon an affirmative majority vote of the Interfraternity Council. The purpose of these Bylaws is to explain, define, and contain in detail the duties of the officers, committees of the Interfraternity Council, to outline in brief the operation of the Interfraternity Council, and to set forth the rules and regulations governing the member fraternities.

Section 2. Any motion to suspend, alter, amend, or revoke the Bylaws of the Texas A&M University-Commerce Interfraternity Council shall be submitted in writing, and tabled after an initial reading of said motion in front of the Interfraternity Council. The said motion shall be voted upon at the next Interfraternity Council Session and requires a majority vote to be enacted.

## ARTICLE XII

### Ratification

This constitution becomes effective when passed by a majority vote of the current member fraternities. Additionally it shall supersede any previous governing document of the Texas A&M University-Commerce Interfraternity Council.

## BYLAWS OF THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

### ARTICLE 1

#### LEGISLATION

Section 1. All members of the Executive Council, both elected and appointed, except the president, may bring motions before the Interfraternity Council and the Interfraternity Council Members.

### ARTICLE II

#### CANDIDATE, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

##### SECTION 1. CANDIDATES

- A. The following officers are to be elected annually:
  1. President(President/Parliamentarian powers)
  2. Vice President

3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
- B. Qualifications  
Officers of the IFC Executive Council shall:
  1. Have and maintain active status within their fraternity.
  2. Have completed twelve semester credit hours of academic coursework prior to the academic year in which the position will be held.
  3. Have at least a 2.5/4 cumulative GPA or a 2.7/4 GPA for the semester preceding their election, while taking a minimum of 12 semester credit hours per semester.
  4. While in office stay enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester credit hours, unless the officer does not need 12 hours to graduate.
  5. Be in good standing and registered as a student at TAMUC.
  6. Candidates for the office of President must have previously served in the capacity of at least one of the following:
    - A. On the IFC Executive Council;
    - B. One the IFC Judicial Board, having heard at least one case;
    - C. As an IFC delegate or committee chair;
    - D. As a chapter president for at least a semester;

## Section 2. Nominations and Election

- A. All men seeking candidacy for an IFC Executive Council position shall be nominated and seconded in the meeting designated for nominations, give a prepared speech, and then tabled to take back to chapter to be voted on the next meeting.
- B. During the month of November, nominations for all Executive Council Positions shall be taken. The elections for these positions shall take place at the following IFC Council meeting.
- C. Procedures
  1. All meetings of the Interfraternity Council which include elections shall take place without recess or adjournment, and shall 100% of member fraternities in attendance.
  2. All voting shall be conducted by secret ballot assembled, distributed and collected by the IFC President/Parliamentarian.
  3. The election of officers shall take place in the following order: President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
  4. All men whose candidacies have been certified shall be allowed to deliver a speech to the Interfraternity Council. Candidate speeches shall be delivered in alphabetical order by last name. Any candidate not speaking shall leave the room. These speeches shall be no longer than three (3) minutes. Immediately following each candidate's speech, the Council Floor shall be open for questions directed to the candidate. The question and answer session shall last for a period no longer than two (2) minutes. All time keeping shall be monitored by the IFC Advisor.
  5. After all the candidates have spoken and fielded question for a respective office, the Council Floor shall be open for a period of two (2) minutes. During this time, all candidates shall remain outside of the room.

6. Table voting for a week following the completion of open-discussion, the secret ballots shall be distributed by the President. There shall be a separate ballot for each position.
7. The President/Parliamentarian and IFC Advisor shall count the votes and announce the winner prior to moving onto the election process for the next position.

## ARTICLE III

### Officers and Duties

#### Section 1. Duties of Elected Officers

- A. Elected officers shall be required to attend all Executive Council and Interfraternity Council meetings & events, unless excused by the president. Failure to do so will result in a Judicial Board.
- B. President
  1. To serve as spokesman and official representative for the Interfraternity Council to University administrators and the general public;
  2. To preside over all meetings of the Interfraternity council, and be ultimately responsible for the meetings, agenda and communication of the decisions of the body;
  3. Work in collaboration as the President/Parliamentarian with the IFC Advisor to ensure the proper use of Robert's Rules of Order at all Interfraternity Council Meetings;
  4. To call special meetings of the Interfraternity Council;
  5. Ensure that any meeting or committee established by the Office of the President or any Vice President of Texas A&M University-Commerce are attended by a Greek council leader;
  6. To work closely with other Greek Council Leadership and the FSL Advising Team for the beneficial exchange of information;
  7. To be responsible for the information of goals and the direction of the Executive Council and the Interfraternity Council;
  8. Sign all contracts involving the Texas A&M University-Commerce Interfraternity Council and be authorized to cosign and IFC checks;
  9. Ensure that any committee established by the Interfraternity Council includes and Executive Council member as an ex-officio member;
  10. To maintain 15 scheduled hours per week. Scheduled hours shall be approved by the Interfraternity Council;
  11. Maintain and turnover all files pertaining to the office.
- C. Executive Vice President/Recruitment Officer
  1. To assume the duties of the President in his absence;
  2. To work closely with the Interfraternity Council President in helping him to discharge his duties;
  3. Coordinate with the director selection progress;
  4. Coordinate all recruitment/Bid Day activities with the advise/guidance of the IFC Advisor and approval of the IFC Body.

5. Coordinate an orientation for new IFC representatives on or before the second Interfraternity Council meeting of the fall semester;
6. Work in conjunction with the FSL Advising Team Staff to stay aware of changes in Code of Student Conduct or fraternity policies which may affect the operation of social events;
7. Serve as ex-officio on the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board. This duty includes training, convening, and scheduling of Judicial Hearings.
8. Ensure just and equitable operation of the Judicial Board in compliance with all provisions of the judicial code;
9. To ensure proper use of Robert's Rules of Order at all Interfraternity Council Meetings;
10. To guide the Judicial Board in its interpretation and enforcement of the Interfraternity Council Constitution, Bylaws and Judicial Code;
11. To coordinate an annual review of the Constitution and Bylaws;
12. Coordinate justice selection process as outlined in the judicial code;
13. To work with the IFC Advisor to oversee the nominee certification process.
14. To perform all duties required by the Candidates Nominations and Elections Article of these bylaws, dealing with election;
15. Maintain and turn over all files pertaining to the office.

D. Secretary

1. To maintain a complete filing system of the business/programs of the Interfraternity Council;
2. Keep complete and accurate agendas, minutes and attendance at all council meetings;
3. Reserve all meeting spaces;
4. Notify all fraternities of time, location, and send agenda for all Interfraternity Council meetings no less the two (2) days prior to the meeting;
5. Follow-up with chapter presidents when their fraternities are absent from regularly scheduled Interfraternity Council Meetings;
6. Maintain and update the IFC listserv with accurate contact information each semester;
7. Generate and distribute to the Interfraternity Council and general public a master schedule of all office hours for the officers;
8. Maintain and turn over all files pertaining to the office.

E. Treasurer

1. To be responsible for all funds assessed, collected, and distributed by the Interfraternity Council;
2. Be authorized to co-sign checks on behalf of the Interfraternity Council;
3. Prepare and administer a budget approved by the Executive Council and majority affirmative vote of the Interfraternity Council;
4. Make monthly reports on the financial status of the Interfraternity Council;
5. Prepare a financial statement for presentation to the Interfraternity Council just prior to the completion of his term;



6. Maintain and turn over all files pertaining to the office.

## Section 2. Non-elected Officers

### A. Directors

-Director positions will only be made when a need is seen and voted on by the IFC, examples include: Director of Marketing, Communication, Community Service, etc.

1. All directors shall attend and report at all regular Interfraternity Council meetings unless specifically informed otherwise by the Interfraternity Council President. Directors are ex-officio non-voting members of the Interfraternity Council, unless he is a voting representative of his chapter. All directors shall report regularly to their respective Executive Council members as well.
2. All directors will be appointed by the Executive Council through an application process and a formal interview process. Directors may be reappointed for additional terms, but the formal procedure must be followed in reappointments, and all applicants considered.
3. Directors shall be selected no later than the last Interfraternity Council meeting of the spring semester. Their term shall be one year.
4. Candidates for the Director positions shall:
  - a) Have at least a 2.5/4.0 cumulative GPA prior to selection, and maintain at least the same throughout their term in office;
  - b) Have completed at least twelve (12) hours from Texas A&M University Commerce and be a full-time student;
  - c) Have and maintain active status in their fraternity throughout their term in office.

### B. Advisor

1. The advisor shall:
  - a) Be knowledgeable of the events, activities, and issues related to the Interfraternity Council and its member fraternities;
  - b) Provide guidance and counsel to the Interfraternity Council and its Executive Council;
  - c) Attend all Executive Council and Interfraternity Council meetings, but shall not be permitted to vote;
  - d) Approve all expenditures and co-sign checks.

## Section 3. Vacancies

- A. Resignation of Executive Council/Director positions shall be submitted in writing to the Council
- B. Nominations and elections for vacancies on the Executive Council shall be made at the Interfraternity Council meeting immediately following receipt of the official written resignation.
- C. The term of office for those elected to fill such a vacancy on the Executive Council shall be through the next scheduled election of the Executive Council Officers.
- D. If the office of President is vacated, The Executive Vice President will assume the position, until the next Formal IFC meeting, in which a new President shall be nominated and elected.

- E. Vacancies of director positions shall be filled when a need is determined by the executive council.

#### Section 4. Procedure for Removal of Executive Officers

- A. All elected officers may be subject to removal by a member fraternity with due cause.
- B. Removal procedures may be initiated by written petition of not less the 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the total number of member fraternities.
- C. A removal of any members of the Executive Council may be executed by majority ballot vote of the members of the Interfraternity Council.
- D. The council shall then hold elections for the vacancy in accordance with the Section 3 of this Article.

### ARTICLE IV

#### RECRUITMENT

##### Section 1. Eligibility

- A. Per the NIC standards, In order to be eligible to join a fraternity a student must have a 2.7 High School GPA or a 2.5 institutional GPA for sophomores and above
- B. The IFC supports the NIC position statement on open recruitment.
- C. Member fraternities shall not extend an invitation to pledge to man who is not enrolled in at least twelve (12) credit hours at Texas A&M University-Commerce. However, men enrolled in at least six(6) hours at Texas A&M University-Commerce and also taking at least 6 hours at Paris Junior College are eligible for fraternity membership, if allowed by the inter/national headquarters of that fraternity.

##### Section 2. Registration of Contact Information

- A. A student interested in fraternity life will register with the FSL Advising Team, and that student's name is distributed to all recruiting fraternities on campus along with their contact information, which enable fraternities to easily access each interested student during the recruitment process.
- B. Registration, as well as all aspects of the recruitment process is not binding. If the student feels that Greek Life is not for him, he is welcome to quit the Recruitment process at any point.

##### Section 3. Recruitment Structure Types

Statement: The IFC will provide support to chapters for materials, policy interpretation, best practices, and resources.

### Structured Recruitment

- A. Member fraternities, of the IFC, will participate in the Fall and Spring semesters in a structured recruitment consisting of a week of events.
  - i. The week of recruitment will be designed by the Executive Vice President and approved by the members of IFC.
- B. Women are not permitted of IFC Member Fraternity recruitment activities during the One week period.
- C. Potential new members will attend 4 of the 5 events of each participating IFC fraternity, during structured recruitment. Notice of absences shall be made to IFC exec. All potential new members must register with FSL.

### Open Recruitment

- A. The IFC supports the NIC position statement on open recruitment and believes that the individual chapter is responsible for recruitment.
- B. In order for open recruitment to be successful, individual chapters are expected to coordinate and plan their own events in accordance with State Law, university and IFC policy, and their own inter/national organization's policies.
- C. During open recruitment, an interested student can make his own decisions as to which fraternities to get in contact with, as well as all activities he is to attend with that fraternity.
- D. Dates and time of open recruitment events shall be registered with the FSL Advising Team no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event.
- E. FIPG Policy: All recruitment, or rush activities associated with any chapter, will be non-alcoholic. NO recruitment, or rush activities associated with any chapter, may be held at or in conjunction with a tavern or alcohol distributor as defined in the FIPG Risk Management Policy. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages before or during recruitment event is prohibited.

### Section 6. New Member Day

- A. IFC Member Fraternities will adhere to the following, in order to participate in Running of The Hill:
  - i. Turn in a recruitment calendar of events (including event name, time, and place) to FSL Advising Team, before recruitment activities may begin.
  - ii. The fraternities will also actively participate in the semi-structured recruitment week in order to participate in Running of The Hill.
- B. At Running of The Hill every man pledging a fraternity must complete all FSL Forms. Any man not participating in New Member Day, but pledging a fraternity, must also complete said forms.

### Section 7. Broken Pledges

- A. In accordance with NIC Standards any man who has not been initiated is free to associate with any fraternity he wishes. Once initiated, per the NIC Comity Clause, he may not join

another fraternity without written consent from both the original fraternity headquarters and the new Fraternity headquarters.

#### Section 8. General Recruitment Information

- A. A recruitment event is defined as any event open to male students with the intent of recruiting that student, regardless when the event is held registered under FSL.
- B. Alcoholic beverages shall not be advertised in connection with any recruitment event.
- C. No member fraternity should, at any time, purposely misrepresent its chapter in regards to improving its chapters name to benefit the recruitment process. This includes but is not limited to, providing false information in academics, athletics, awards (University, Internationally), membership status or any other forms of recognition status at Texas A&M University-Commerce.
- D. Members of the Executive Council shall patrol all recruitment events to ensure compliance with recruitment rules. Failure by any member fraternity to allow members of the Executive Council to view events shall be considered an infraction.
- E. Recruitment rule infraction shall be determined by a majority of the Executive Council. Member fraternity found to have violated the letter or the spirit of the recruitment rules may appeal to the Judicial Board.
  - a. First Offense - \$100.00 Fine
  - b. Second Offense - \$250.00 Fine
  - c. Third Offense – Charges sent to the Judicial Board.

#### ARTICLE V

#### FINANCES

Section 1. The Executive Council shall present a budget to the Interfraternity Council at the last March Council meeting. This budget shall outline the financial operation of the Interfraternity Council for the calendar year from the date of its approval

Section 2. Chapters shall be assessed \$10.00 per active and new member each semester. These dues shall be calculated based on the academic roster maintained by the FSL Advising Team.

Section 3. Each fraternity shall be notified by mail or at the Interfraternity Council meetings for the charges due to the Interfraternity Council. Upon receipt of the invoice, payment is due in full. Penalties may be imposed and will remain in effect until the balance is paid in full or alternative arrangements are made with the Treasurer. The payment penalty schedule is as follows:

0-14 days: no penalty

15-30 days: Finance charge of 10% of remaining balance owed; suspension of voting privileges.

31-60 days: Additional 10% finance charge of balance owed; Inter/national office contacted and advised of delinquency.

60+ days: Continued 10% finance charge of balance owed assessed each month; Loss of all Interfraternity Council Privileges; Referral to the Judicial Board for further review.

Section 4. A member fraternity may appeal to the Executive board for an alternative payment schedule, which would waive the above stated plan. Any given plan shall be approved with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the Executive Council

## ARTICLE VI

### JUDICIAL BOARD

Section 1. There shall be a judicial body of the Interfraternity Council Known as the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board.

Section 2. Regulation

- A. The Board shall perform all duties and be subject to all regulations contained in the Interfraternity Council Judicial Code.
- B. The Code shall become effective upon adoption majority of the Interfraternity Council.

## ARTICLE VII

### CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Section 1. Scholarship

- A. Any chapter that falls below the All Men's University GPA during a given semester shall be made to appear before the IFC Judicial Board.
- B. Initiated members whose GPA falls below 2.5 shall be placed on scholastic probation by their fraternity. At the very least they shall be deemed ineligible to hold any office within their chapter.

Section 2. Community Service and Philanthropy

- A. IFC Fraternities associated with or hosting events in order to raise money for philanthropic purposes or perform community service shall:
  - 1. Refrain from having their event sponsored in any way by an alcoholic brand, distributor, or establishment generating more than half of its annual gross sales from alcohol;
  - 2. Not utilize alcohol in any way to promote the event;
  - 3. Only be required to maintain a guest list if alcohol will be present at the event;
  - 4. Contact its inter/national headquarters to learn if their present insurance policy covers the event;
  - 5. Secure insurance when their current policy does not cover the event.

### Section 3. Little Sister Programs

- A. Little Sister Programs shall be defined as a women's sub-organization of any fraternity chapter which requires a framework including: officers, rituals, meeting schedules, dues collection, member rosters, hazing/initiation rites, or recruitment practices to acquire new woman for the organization.
- B. Little Sister Programs are strictly prohibited.

## ARTICLE VIII

### RISK MANAGEMENT

Section 1. Each fraternity, and its members, shall follow all federal, state and local laws, as well as the Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct.

#### Section 2. Alcohol

- A. Any event involving alcoholic beverages must comply with either B.Y.O.B. or third-party vendor guidelines.
- B. Any event involving alcohol requires the use of a guest list; only people on the guest list shall be admitted to the event.
- C. No alcoholic beverages may be purchased through the fraternity's funds, nor may the purchase of alcohol for members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by a member on behalf of any fraternity.
- D. The use of bulk quantities, or common sources, of alcohol, such as kegs, shall be prohibited; except when used for registered alumni events.
- E. No fraternity shall distribute alcohol, including alcohol brought to parties by guests as B.Y.O.B., to persons under 21 or to persons other than those who brought the alcohol to the event.

#### Section 3. Social Events

- A. IFC Member fraternities are expected to follow state law, University Policy, and the policies of their Inter/National Organization.
- B. A social event shall be defined by the NIC Guidelines as "Those with unrestricted access by non-members of the fraternity, without specific invitation, where alcohol is present" or by a more specific standard set by the Fraternities NAO.
- C. All social events including alcohol shall be registered with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event, as well as reviewed by the chapter's faculty/staff advisor.
- D. All the risk of underage, unaffiliated persons attending Fraternity Mixers/Parties, the following stipulations will be adhered to:
  - i. There will be NO parties hosted by IFC Member Fraternities during New Student Orientations.

- ii. There will be ONE party/social event allowed during the Lion's Roar/Lion's LEAP events, as long as they are registered with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life within 72 hours, and they do not conflict with the Lion's Roar/Lion's Leap events.
- iii. There will be no parties hosted by IFC Member Fraternities during fraternity recruitment.

Violation of this will result in the loss of participation in Running of the Hill, and sanctions as assigned by either the FSL Advising Team, or the assistant Dean of Students.

- E. A guest list shall be used at the entrance to the event.
- F. At the entrance to an event where alcohol will be present, two (2) fraternity members, on whom is a senior ranking officer, shall check IDs and distinctly mark underage guests as such, cross-check arriving guests with the guest list. If the event is being held at an establishment with or by a company with a liquor license, the aforementioned tasks shall be completed with the staff of the business.
- G. A "B.Y.O.B.," or third-party vendor system, must be used if alcohol will be present at the event.
- H. There shall be only one entrance to any social event.
- I. Multiple exits shall be used and monitored by fraternity members to ensure that exits are not used as entrances.
- J. Appropriate non-alcoholic beverages must be available at the same place as all alcoholic beverages.
- K. Security guards or police officers shall be present at the entrance to any social event where alcohol will be present. Suggested ratio is one guard or officer per 50 guests
- L. In order to prevent sexual assaults/violence at fraternity houses where social events are being held, residential areas of the house will be blocked off to guests.
- M. It is the ultimate responsibility of the fraternity to ensure that all members and guests have a safe ride home.

JUDICIAL CODE OF THE  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE  
INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

ARTICLE I

THE JUDICIAL POWER

The Judiciary power of the Interfraternity Council shall be vested in the Interfraternity Judicial Board.

Article II

RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY OF THE JUDICIAL BOARD

Section 1. The delegated responsibility of the judicial board shall apply to all areas concerning fraternities and fraternity relations. The IFC Judicial Board will have the authority to act on any incident report involving a member fraternity, and filed with the board or the FSL Advising Team. The board shall also have the authority to hear appeals of violations or recruitment/rush rules.

Section 2. Definition of group responsibility: Each fraternity will be held responsible for the actions of its affiliates. Affiliate is defined as new members, associates and/or voting members of a fraternity who are students at Texas A&M University-Commerce, as well as any person promoting a specific fraternity at any Greek-sponsored event.

Section 3. The Judicial Board shall determine whether or not there have been violations of the IFC Constitution or Bylaws, and if so, the board shall follow the proper procedure in determining the actions to be taken for such violations.

Section 4. The Judicial Board may address cases involving misunderstanding or complications arising between one or more fraternity chapters regarding violations of Interfraternity Council Rules, regulations, and procedures.

Section 5. The Judicial board may address cases involving actions on the part of one or more fraternity chapters, or their members acting on behalf of the fraternity which are detrimental to the reputation or status of the Greek Community.

Section 6. All cases that deal with sexual harassment, sexual assault/rape, sexual abuse, hazing, illegal drugs, or the point involvement of a recognized fraternity or sorority and non-Greek recognized student organization will fall under the jurisdiction of the University Judicial Board, not the IFC Judicial Board.

- a. If the University Judicial Board turns the case over to the IFC, then the IFC Judicial Board will conduct a trial based off all information given.

Section 8. The Judicial Board shall have the power to interpret all parts of the interfraternity Council Constitution and Bylaws.

## ARTICLE III

### COMPOSITION

Section 1. Undergraduate Members: The Judicial Board shall consist of IFC exec board and one ad hoc member per chapter.

Section 2. FSL Advising Team Representative: A representative from the FSL Advising Team shall act in an advisory capacity in all deliberations of the Board.

## ARTICLE IV

### SELECTION OF MEMBERS



Section 1. Candidates for the IFC Judicial Board will be those who are the current IFC officers and must have:

- A. Ad-hoc member:
  - 1. Will be elected during IFC elections in November, in the case of a vacancy that member will be re-elected.
  - 2. The Board shall be comprised of no more than one representative from any member fraternity.
  - 3. If there are two members representing a chapter on the IFC board there will be additional ad hoc members elected for equal representation.
- B. Any Judicial Board position held by an undergraduate that is vacated shall be filled by an alternate board member. A new alternate shall be selected by the normal selection procedure.
- C. A member of the Judicial Board may be removed by a majority vote of the entire Board.

## ARTICLE V

### DUTIES OF THE JUDICIAL BOARD

Section 1. Attendance: Board Members shall take part in and be present at all of the Judicial Board proceedings when requested by the chairman.

Section 2. Alternates: Alternates shall have the same privileges as permanent Board Members, and have the power to vote for that meeting alone.

Section 3. Training: All members of the Board must attend an annual training program conducted by the FSL Advising Team and the President/Parliamentarian.

## ARTICLE VI

### PROCEDURE FOR COMPLAINTS

Section 1. Complaints shall be filed with the FSL Advising team.

Section 2. In cases where the IFC Judicial Board has jurisdiction, the complaint shall be forwarded to the President. The President will then hold a special meeting with at least one member of the FSL Advising Team staff to determine whether disciplinary charges should be initiated.

Section 3. If charges are necessary, the President shall, by way of formal letter, advise involved chapter(s) of the following:

- 1. Date, time and location of their IFC Judicial Board hearing;
- 2. Description of the alleged violation;
- 3. Due Process Rights.

## ARTICLE VII

## DUE PROCESS

Section 1. In appearing before the Judicial Board, each member fraternity shall be granted certain rights termed "due process." Those rights are:

1. To be informed, in writing, of all pending charges at least seven (7) calendar days prior to any IFC Judicial Board Hearing;
2. Right to waive seven-day notice of charges;
3. Right to reasonable access to the case file, which shall be maintained by the FSL Advising Team;
4. Right to remain silent;
5. Right to question witnesses against the accused;
6. Right to present a reasonable number of witnesses and/or signed statements by witnesses;
7. Right to an open hearing;
8. Right to be accompanied by an advisor for advisory purposes only, not for representation;
9. Right to appeal the decision to the appropriate University Officials within 72 hours of formal notification of said decision
10. Right to not have double Jeopardy situation without due process of law.

## ARTICLE VIII

### HEARING PROCEDURES

#### Section 1. Guidelines

- A. There shall be at least two (2) judicial board members present in order to conduct a hearing.
- B. Any justice whose fraternity is a party in a hearing, or who feels he cannot judge a case fairly, must disqualify himself.
- C. A hearing may not be conducted unless the President, or an alternate designated by the FSL Advising Team, and FSL Advising Team representative are both present.
- D. A hearing may only be conducted if all fraternities being charged have been given seven (7) days' notice, unless formally waived by the accused.
- E. All hearings shall be closed, unless a request for an open-hearing has been made by the accused.

#### Section 2. Process

- A. Introductions
  - a. All persons, including any witnesses, are called into the room;
  - b. The members of the Board shall introduce themselves, excluding their fraternal affiliation;
  - c. The advisor shall introduce him/ or herself, and explain his role;
  - d. The accused organization and any representatives shall introduce themselves, with title when appropriate.
- B. Initiation of the Hearing
  - a. The President shall inform the accused, and any advisor, that the hearing will be conducted in an orderly manner and any person causing disruption will be asked to

leave. Additionally, he shall advise the accused of the formality of the hearing, and the necessity of all parties to be completely truthful;

- b. The President shall outline process for the remainder of the hearing as follows:
    - i. Case against the accused chapter shall be presented;
    - ii. Accused may ask questions;
    - iii. Board may ask questions;
    - iv. Accused shall present their case;
    - v. Board may ask questions;
    - vi. Accused may give final statement;
    - vii. Private Board deliberations;
    - viii. Finding of responsibility and sanctions, if necessary.
  - c. The President shall then ask all witnesses to exit the hearing room, until called.
- C. Presentation of Case Against the Accused
- a. Review of Information: The President shall inquire if the person representing the accused chapter has had the opportunity to review the file pertaining to the complaint. If not, they may do so at that time;
  - b. The President shall then cite each specific article and section of the IFC Constitution, Bylaws, Judicial code, and/or Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct which has been violated. He shall then, after each specific infraction named, ask the accused:
    - i. If he, as the official fraternity representative understand the charge(s). If not, the President shall then explain;
    - ii. If he, as the official fraternity representative is “responsible” or “not responsible” for the charge(s).
  - c. If there are no pleadings of “not responsible” by the accused, then proceed to Section 2, H. If any of the pleadings are “not responsible,” then the President shall proceed with presenting evidence and/or witnesses against the accused. If/when there are witnesses to the incident, the witnesses shall remain outside the hearing room until they are needed. Witnesses shall then be called one at a time to present their views.
- D. The accused shall have the opportunity to ask any questions and/or cross-examine witnesses.
- E. Any member of the Judicial Board may ask questions of witnesses.
- F. The accused shall then present his evidence, and may call witnesses. The Judicial Board may cross-examine witnesses.
- G. There shall then be question and answer period, where any member of the Judicial Board may ask questions of the accused which concern the case.
- H. The accused will then be allowed to give a brief final statement.
- I. The Judicial Board shall go into private deliberation session. All persons, other than the Board and the FSL Advising Team Representative, shall leave the room while the Board discusses and votes on whether a violation has been committed, and if necessary, what sanctions shall be imposed. The Board must determine responsibility and sanction by a preponderance of evidence. Generally, preponderance is evidence of a quality and quantity which leads the decision maker to objectively conclude that the existence of truth of the facts asserted is more probable than not.

- J. After the completion of deliberations, the accused shall return to the hearing, and shall then be informed of the Board's finding of responsibility, as well as any sanctions, if necessary. This shall not replace written formal notification by the President or the FSL Advising Team Representative.

## ARTICLE IX

### SANCTIONS

Section 1. Suspension: The Board can revoke IFC voting rights of the accused depending on the charge. In a serious offense, the Board can also recommend suspension of the accused, for a specified or indefinite period of time, from the Interfraternity Council. Additionally, the group shall be prohibited from participation in all IFC and University activities. This includes application for recognition as a student organization and use of University Facilities. Any suspension shall last until the Chapter is reinstated in accordance with the procedures enumerated in the IFC Bylaws.

Section 2. Probation: This sanction puts the fraternity under review of the Judicial Board for a specific period of time. Although no restrictions are automatically attached, the Board may impose restrictions in addition to probation. If no added violations are reported during that time, the Board shall lift this sanction. However, if the fraternity commits additional violations during their probationary period, their status may be review by the Board.

Section 3. Letter of Reprimand: This is a warning indicating that the actions of the accused were inappropriate and that subsequent violations may result in more serious disciplinary action.

Section 4. Restrictions include but are not limited to:

- A. Social privileges;
- B. Intramural privileges;
- C. Greek events;
- D. IFC offices;
- E. IFC voting rights;
- F. Campus activities;
- G. Fines not to exceed \$100;
- H. Requirements to pay for damages, letters of apology, etc.

Section 5. The IFC Judicial Board may not prohibit recruitment.

Section 6. The inter/national headquarters of the fraternity, chapter advisor, and faculty/staff advisor will be notified of all formal sanctions required by the Board.

## ARTICLE X

### APPEALS

Section 1. After the decision of the Judicial Board has been reached, it may be appealed to the Dean of Students under the following conditions:

- i. The appeal must be made in writing within five (5) working days of the date of the letter notifying the organization of the decision of the Board.
- ii. The appeal must be based on the issue of substantive or procedural errors which are prejudicial and which were committed during the disciplinary process or on the basis that the penalty is too extreme for the violation.

Section 2. Notice of appeal will suspend the imposition of the sanction until the appeal has been ruled on.

Section 3. The Assistant Dean of Students shall review all necessary information and recommend one of the following actions:

- A. That the case stand as originally heard.
- B. That the case be reheard because of procedural error.
- C. That the sanction be reduced.