

IFC Constitution

Last Revised: 9/23/13

PREAMBLE

The Inter-Fratal Council is established to promote a forum for communication, unity, and fraternalism amongst all the social fraternities at Binghamton University. The fraternities that comprise this council shall be dedicated not only to their respective organizations, but the college community as a whole. By way of our association in this council we shall strive to effectually better our university and uphold its overall mission by combining our resources, ideas, and goals so as to collectively reach our fullest potential.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Inter-Fraternity Council is to establish a body that shall:

- A. Encourage better understanding and closer communication among the social fraternities.
- B. Represent, advise, and regulate the fraternities at Binghamton University in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and the Fraternity/Sorority Recognition and Governance Policy.
- C. Provide a central warehouse for the receiving and distribution of information to all social fraternities.
- D. Foster amicable relations amongst all member fraternities at Binghamton University.
- E. Act as the legislative and judicial body in matters pertaining to member fraternities.
- F. Promote and foster a partnership with the other Greek councils at Binghamton University

Article I

Name

The name of the organization established to enforce this constitution shall be the InterFraternity Council (IFC) at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Article II

Membership

Section 1: Membership Criteria

- A. All social fraternities recognized by the University, as nominated by the IFC, shall be members of the IFC and subject to its regulations, policies, and procedures prescribed under this constitution.
- B. In order for any undergraduate Fraternity or colony to be recognized at Binghamton University, they must also be recognized by their respective national headquarters. This stipulation does not apply to Tau Alpha Upsilon.

Section 2: All chapters or groups must be recognized by Binghamton University's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the IFC.

Section 3: Types of Membership

- A. Full membership: the rights of a full member shall consist of full voting privileges, in addition to full social, sports, rush and philanthropic privileges within the IFC provided the group maintains recognition with the University and their respective national headquarters.
- B. Probationary membership: the rights of a temporary member shall consist of full social, sports, rush, and philanthropic privileges within the IFC, however such rights may be limited at the discretion of the IFC Executive Board. Probationary members are not able to vote at IFC meetings or hold office on the IFC Executive Board.

- C. Suspended membership: the rights of a suspended member shall be limited as dictated by the IFC Executive Board and Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Suspended members are still required to attend weekly IFC meetings and pay dues, but will not have the ability to vote on matters.

Section 4: Academic Requirements of Membership

- A. All chapters shall have a Scholarship/ Academic Chair to monitor the academic progress of their respective chapters and students pledging their fraternity so as to ensure optimal academic performance.
- B. To remain in good standing with IFC, an active chapter must maintain a chapter grade point average of at least 2.75 each semester. Failure to remain in good standing will result in the following:
 1. The Scholarship Chair and Chapter President must meet with the IFC Judicial Board to develop a scholarship plan and track the academic progress of the chapter.
 2. Two consecutive semesters without being in good standing will result in the Chapter losing voting privileges for one semester.
 3. Three consecutive semesters of failing to achieve good standing will result in the Chapter being referred to the IFC Judicial Board wherein they shall prescribe a punishment deemed appropriate.
- C. New member classes shall have an average grade point average of 2.50 in the semester they are pledging. Failure to achieve the given grade point average will result in the consequences as they are outlined in Article 2.4.B.

Section 5: Philanthropy/ Community Service Requirements of Membership

- A. All chapters shall have a Philanthropy Chair to ensure their chapter is an active, charitable, and contributing member to the community by planning philanthropy events and community service.

- B. The IFC shall host at least one philanthropy/ community service event per semester. This includes, but is not limited to, fundraisers, sales, blood drives, community cleanups, projects, etc. Should an event not fall in the realm of these activities the Greek Life Director shall have final say towards if an activity fulfills the requirement.
- C. Each chapter shall host at least one philanthropy event per semester. The event may take the form of a fundraiser, sale, blood drive, or a project that IFC deems appropriate.
- D. Each chapter shall host at least one community service event per semester. Community service shall be governed as follows:
 - 1. Community service events are those in which brothers are physically in attendance and perform a service. Events may take the form of a community cleanup, soup kitchen, volunteering, a program to raise awareness about a particular issue, or a project the IFC deems appropriate.
 - 2. The mandatory philanthropy event shall not count towards the community service requirement and vice versa.
- E. Failure to perform the stipulations dictated in Article 2.5.C and/or 2.5.D in a given semester will result in the following:
 - 1. The Philanthropy Chair and Chapter President shall meet with the Vice President of Service and the Greek Life Director to formulate a plan to meet the requirements the following semester.
 - 2. Failure to meet the requirements for two consecutive semesters will result in the Chapter being sent to the IFC Judicial Board wherein they shall prescribe a punishment deemed appropriate.

Section 6: Privileges of Membership

- A. All full members share equality in the rights of the IFC.
- B. All full members may participate in the elections of the IFC.

- C. All full members may participate in all events and committees sponsored by the IFC.
- D. Equality of rights shall not be denied or abridged by the IFC on account of race, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, age disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

Section 7: Duties of Membership

- A. It is the responsibility of all members of the IFC to see that this constitution is adhered to.
- B. All chapters are responsible to carry out the purpose of the IFC.
- C. All member organizations must meet all the financial obligations to the IFC as outlined in this constitution.

Article III

Expansion of Membership

Section 1: Minimum Standards for Applying for Colony Status

A prospective colony shall be defined as a group of undergraduate students seeking to become a chartered fraternity. A letter of intent is necessary to petition for colony status. The applying group must meet the following requirements:

- A. The group must have a minimum of twenty-five members, currently enrolled, full-time undergraduate students at Binghamton University in order to submit a letter to obtain colony status.
- B. Provide a written request to the Director of Greek Life and President of IFC, which must include the following: a completed roster, a set of house rules, a Constitution and Bylaws, a copy of their new member education program, and any other information that is requested by the Director or President.

- C. Have a chapter grade point average either at or above both the “All Fraternity’s Average” and “All Men’s Average” from the previous semester, as determined by the Greek Life Office.
- D. Present to the Congress regarding their rationale for establishing a group at Binghamton University and obtain a two-thirds vote of approval of the Congress’ colony membership. This will only occur after the other aforementioned requirements have been fulfilled.

Section 2: Maintaining Colony Status

- A. A colony will lose the IFC’s recognition if the colony fails to meet the requirements set forth in Article III Section 1. The colony must petition the Congress to regain recognition.
- B. Following the mandatory probationary semester, colony recognition shall be terminated after four semesters. Any colony not gaining chapter status must petition the IFC to regain recognition.
- C. The following requirements must be taken to maintain colony status each semester:
 1. Two members must attend all IFC meetings.
 2. Must report all progress of their chapter.
 3. Must conduct two of their own community service events.
 4. Must conduct one philanthropy event.

Section 3: Obtaining Chartered Status

- A. To obtain the status as a chartered fraternity chapter, a colony must complete the following requirements:
 1. Have a grade point average either at or above the “All Fraternity Average” and “All Men’s Average,” as calculated by the Greek Life Office.

2. Have a chapter membership larger than that of the average IFC chapter size, as calculated by the Greek Life Office.
3. Give an oral presentation to the Congress.
4. Obtain University approval.

B. Once the requirements to charter have been completed, a vote for full membership status will be taken.

1. Should the IFC's membership approve of the petitioning colony by a two-thirds vote, they shall have full membership granted.
2. Should the IFC's membership fail to approve of the petitioning colony by a two-thirds vote, the colony shall be denied full membership with the invitation to reapply the following semester, unless it is the colony's fourth consecutive semester of colony status, in which case they must reapply to regain colony status.

C. If full membership status is achieved, then the IFC will immediately petition to the Fraternity/ Sorority Leadership Board for full University recognition.

Article IV

Representation

- A. Each member Fraternity shall be represented at meetings of the Congress by their chapter's president or an elected IFC representative.
- B. Representatives must be full-time students at Binghamton University.
- C. Each representative shall be entitled to one vote in the Congress.
- D. Each representative to the Congress has the responsibility to act as a representative of his organizations opinions.

Article V

Officers

Section 1: Procedures

- A. The officers of IFC, elected from among the members of fully recognized fraternities shall be President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Programming, Vice President of Service, Vice President of Finances, Vice President of Communications, and Vice President of Social Responsibility.
- B. The officers of the IFC shall constitute the Executive Board.
- C. The officers of IFC shall have a minimum grade point average of 2.75 and be in good standing with their respective chapter in the semester prior to assuming office.
- D. Elections
 - 1. Must be held between November 14th and December 1st.
 - 2. Each candidate interested in running for election must submit a letter of intent to the IFC Executive Board along with a resume' a week prior to elections.
 - 3. The order of elections is in the following sequence: President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Social Responsibility, Vice President of Programming, Vice President of Service, Vice President of Finances, and Vice President of Communications.
 - 4. The election is won when a candidate receives at least 51% of the votes of the entire council. If 51% is not achieved by one candidate, then a run-off election will immediately follow between the two candidates with the most votes in the first ballot.
 - 5. Any losing candidate may opt to drop down into a following election.
- E. Elected officers will participate in transitional training by the outgoing IFC executive board. During this period the former officers shall instruct the officers-elect as to the most efficient, effective, and responsible way to fulfill his duties.
- F. Voting
 - 1. There shall be no nominations from the floor so long as there are two candidates running for a given position.
 - 2. Representatives shall vote by secret ballot.

3. Each representative and the executive board, excluding the president whom will only vote in the event of a tie in a runoff vote, shall have one vote.
- G. The term of all officers shall begin at the end of the fall semester following elections and shall last for one year.
- H. The membership of the Executive Board shall not be considered as the representatives of their respective fraternities.

Section 2: **Duties**

- A. The President of Congress shall:
 1. Preside over all IFC meetings
 2. Preside over all meetings of the IFC Executive Board, where he shall only vote in the event of a tie.
 3. Be responsible for maintaining a close relationship and open communications with the University officials and administrators.
 4. Be the official spokesman of the IFC.
 5. Attend all Council Presidents meetings.
 6. Sit on the Fraternity/ Sorority Leadership Board, as the voting representative for the IFC's best interests.
 7. Call special meetings of the IFC as deemed necessary.
 8. Appoint ad-hoc committees as deemed necessary.
 9. Serve as an ex-officio member on all committees of the IFC.
 10. Represent and defend the highest ideals of a Fraternity man.
 11. Perform all other duties that his office may require
- B. The Vice President of Administration shall:
 1. Serve to recognize positive aspects of the Greek Community.
 2. Oversee all officers, chairs, and committees of the IFC to ensure they are performing their stipulated duties.
 3. Serve as liaison between the President and member Fraternities.

4. Assume the duties of President whenever the President is absent or unable to serve.
5. Serve as parliamentarian for the Congress.
6. Represent and defend the highest ideals of a Fraternity man.
7. Perform all other duties that his office may require

C. The Vice President of Programming shall:

1. Plan and organize all IFC social events.
2. Plan and organize at least one social event run solely by the IFC each semester.
3. Help plan and organize at least one social event to be co-run with another Greek council of their choosing each semester.
4. Head and administrate any IFC Executive Board responsibilities during Greek Week and rush week,
5. Represent and defend the highest ideals of a Fraternity Man.
6. Perform any duties that his office may require.

D. The Vice President of Service shall:

1. Organize and inform the IFC regarding opportunities for community service and philanthropy.
2. Create and enforce the guidelines for performing philanthropy and community service hours and administrate the reporting of those hours.
3. Help synthesize a plan for the performance of philanthropy and community service with any chapter who did not meet the requirements in the previous semester.
4. Represent and defend the highest ideals of a Fraternity man.
5. Perform any other duties that his office may require.

E. The Vice President of Finances shall:

1. Collect and preserve all monies due to the IFC.
2. Disburse funds as requested by the Congress or Executive Board.
3. Keep accurate, up-to-date records of all Congress financial operations.

4. Ensure that penalties and/ or enforcement procedures are carried out for all overdue bills.
5. Represent and defend the highest ideals of a Fraternity man.
6. Perform all other duties that his office may require

F. The Vice President of Communications shall:

1. Keep accurate records, reports, and minutes of all meetings of the IFC and Executive Board.
2. Present copies of the minutes of each meeting to the officers of the IFC and fraternity representatives within forty-eight hours of each meeting.
3. Send all other correspondence in a prompt and timely fashion.
4. Be responsible for the dissemination of information about the Greek system to the public (including, but not limited to the University community) through appropriate media.
5. Represent and defend the highest ideals of a Fraternity man.
6. Perform all other duties that his office may require.

G. The Vice President of Social Responsibility shall:

1. Preside over the IFC Judicial Board and serve as its Chief Justice.
2. Be in charge of policy and risk management education within the community
3. Be a source of information for IFC members with questions or concerns regarding risk management.
4. Work towards diffusion of information and engagement bystander intervention and culture of care.
5. Represent and defend the highest ideals of a Fraternity man.
6. Perform all other duties that his office may require.

Section 3: **Impeachment**

A. Initiation

1. Whenever the IFC or its members feels that an officer has not fulfilled the duties of the office as stipulated in this constitution, those members may bring charges by way of a bringing a vote of no confidence to the floor.
2. The charging member shall have five minutes to state his case for impeachment.
3. A vote of impeachment shall ensue; in which a two-thirds vote among representatives will be necessary for impeachment.

B. Following the impeachment of an officer, the IFC will hold a hearing. A majority vote of the IFC shall convict the officer of impeachment charges brought against that office, and the position of that officer shall be declared vacant.

Section 4: Vacancies

- A. The Vice-President of Administration shall assume the responsibilities of a vacated Presidency.
- B. In all other cases, a runoff election will occur that follows the same rules as that of a general election.
- C. Letters of intent shall be submitted to the Executive Board, and elections will occur one week after letters are due.

Article VI

Meetings

- A. Regular meetings of the IFC shall be held once every week during the Academic Year.
- B. Executive meetings of the IFC shall be held once every week during the Academic year.

- C. Special meetings of IFC may be called by the President. The IFC shall be given sufficient notice of special meetings.
- D. Absences from meetings of IFC by either of a chapter's representatives shall have the following consequences:
 1. The first and second absence in a semester of a member Fraternity shall result in the issuance of a written warning to that chapter.
 2. The third absence during the same semester shall result in the assessment of a \$25 fine per meeting and will result in a letter being sent to that Fraternity's national organization notifying them of the situation.
 3. Any more than three absences in the same semester will result in the automatic suspension of that chapter's voting privileges for the rest of the semester.
 4. Any more than three absences in the same semester, the President will be responsible for bringing that chapter before the IFC Judicial Board.
 5. The President has the prerogative to excuse absences as he deems fit.
- E. An absence from two meetings in the same semester by an IFC probationary member shall result in the loss of probationary status.

Article VII

Rush and Pledge Regulations

Section 1: Rush Regulations

- A. All fraternities must follow the rules and regulations within the Fraternity and Sorority Recognition and Governance Policy.
- B. A fraternity shall rush no student unless he is rushing in accordance with the IFC and University policies.
- C. Members of the IFC have no right to bar a person from membership on the basis of race, color religion, national history or origin

- D. Fraternity rush dates will be coordinated in accordance with Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board each semester.
- E. No rush activities may include alcoholic beverages; a rush activity is defined as any interaction between students affiliated with a fraternity or sorority and a prospective member in the context of the prearranged activity.
- F. No pledging activities are permitted during the allotted rush period.
- G. Any student wishing to participate in rush must have earned a minimum of twelve credit hours during matriculation at a college campus prior to pledging and have a minimum grade-point average of 2.50.
- H. Rush fliers and all forms of advertisement must be approved by the president of the IFC Executive Board.
- I. Rush fliers will be posted on a date set by the IFC Executive Board
- J. Participation in the first InterFraternity Council rush event and rush process will be dependent upon all of the following criteria being met:
 - a. Member organization must have at least temporary membership with the IFC and have University recognition maintained.
 - b. Have met all financial obligations with the IFC.
 - c. Recruitment chairs of each organization must have attended any and all pre-rush meetings designated by the IFC.
 - d. Failure to maintain rush guidelines can merit loss of rush privileges during present or subsequent rushes.
- K. No groups should schedule an event while another fraternity is holding its allocated event. An allocated event is any event that is scheduled through the IFC.
- L. As long as another fraternity is not holding an allocated event, any fraternity will be allowed to hold a rush event as long as it follows the dry rush guidelines.
- M. No group is allowed to advertise for an alcoholic event as part of a rush flyer; even if that event falls outside the set of dry rush dates.
- N. The dry rush period will commence as soon as the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life's mandated rush week begins.

Section 2: Pledging Regulations

- A. No student shall be pledged by a fraternity unless he is pledged in accordance with the IFC and University regulations.
- B. Fraternities must not engage in any type of hazing activities, assignments, or practices which lead to violations of New York State laws, IFC or University regulations. (See Anti- Hazing Regulations in Rules and Expectations.)
- C. Pledging activities shall be defined as any interaction between an individual active member of an organization and a pledge on or off campus.
- D. Pledging shall not begin prior to or end after the pre-determined University guidelines set by the Fraternity/Sorority Leadership Board.
- E. Fraternities must submit their pledge rosters to the Fraternity/Sorority Advisor by the pre-determined date at the Office of Campus Life.
- F. Pledging activities must not interfere with scholastic activities of pledges nor any student members.
- G. A person may only pledge one social fraternity at a given time.
- H. A pledge can withdraw from pledging activities at any time.
- I. If fraternities are not in accordance with these guidelines; IFC may recommend the group be brought up on charges to the IFJB and handled accordingly.

Article VIII

Social Powers

- A. The IFC has the power to regulate chapter social gatherings.
- B. It is the responsibility of members to adhere to all state and local ordinances regarding social gatherings. This includes but is not limited to alcohol, noise, and size regulations.
- C. There can be no fee for admittance into any social gatherings. This includes but is not limited to charging for cups, donations, special events, etc.

D. It is the responsibility of members to adhere to FIPG regulations concerning social gatherings except in cases which it might violate state or local rules

Article IX

Judiciary

A. The name of the judicial body of the IFC shall be the InterFraternity Judicial Board, and shall be hereinafter referred to as the IFJB.

B. Membership

1. The membership of the IFJB shall consist of five Associate Justices and the Vice President of Social Responsibility, who shall preside as Chief Justice of IFJB, and the IFC Council Advisor. Four Associate justices must be present to constitute a quorum.
2. Voting members shall be the five appointed Associate Justices. The Chief Justice shall only vote in the event of a tie.
3. Non-voting members shall be the IFC Council Advisor.
4. No fraternity may have more than one Associate Justice on the IFJB.

C. Eligibility

1. All members of the IFJB shall be initiated members of a member chapter of the IFC.
2. Each voting member of the IFJB shall maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 throughout his term of office.
3. The term of Associate Justice shall run from the time of their appointment until the time of their graduation at which point their seat will become 'Vacant.'

D. Fulfilling Vacancies

1. A seat on the IFJB shall become 'Vacant' should the respective Associate Judge:
 - i. Graduate, transfer, or leave school.
 - ii. Fail to maintain eligibility (8.C.1&2)

- iii. Be removed (8.I.)
2. Interested persons in fulfilling a 'Vacant' seat shall deliver a letter of intent and a resume' to the IFC Executive Board.
3. Appointment of Associate Justices will be under the jurisdiction of the Vice President of Social Responsibility

E. Duties of Members:

1. The Chief Justice shall:
 - i. Preside at all meetings and hearings.
 - ii. Review all cases with the IFC Council Advisor to ascertain jurisdiction and validity.
 - iii. Announce final ruling.
 - iv. Keep confidential all matters relating to proceedings.
 - v. Treat all chapters, officers, and members fairly, impartially, and consistently.
 - vi. Educate Associate Justices according to the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - vii. Train the Associate Justices once a semester.
2. Associate Justices shall:
 - i. Hear and decide all cases brought before the IFJB.
 - ii. Attend all functions associated with the office.
 - iii. Keep confidential all matters relating to the proceedings
 - iv. Treat all chapters, officers, and members fairly, impartially, and consistently.
3. The IFC Council Advisor shall:
 - i. Advise the Board concerning procedure
 - ii. Advise the Chief Justice
 - iii. Report the relevant judicial history.

F. Powers

1. The IFJB shall have the responsibility to adjudicate on matters involving member chapters and affiliates.

2. An accused party may be charged before the IFJB for any of the following violations:
 - i. Violation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the IFC.
 - ii. Violation of the Risk Management Policies adopted by the IFC.
 - iii. Violation of the recruitment, pledging, or party policies of the IFC.
 - iv. Unsportsmanlike conduct during intramural or interfraternal competitions.
 - v. Action detrimental to the best interests of the Fraternity system.

G. Procedures:

1. Violations shall be presented in written form to the Chief Justice of the Congress at the meeting subsequent for the occurrence of the violation.
2. Hearings shall be heard by the IFJB within two weeks of notification of charges by the Chief Justice.
3. Hearings will consist of a ten-minute forum in which the IFJB will discuss the situation with the chapter in question.
4. Every member of the IFJB will deliberate after the hearing
5. Voting members shall vote without abstentions for a sanction decided on by a simple majority vote.

H. The IFJB has the power to impose one or more of the following **sanctions**:

1. Warning: A written letter of an official warning which indicates violation of IFC policies and suggested future modification of behavior.
2. Probation: A defined period during which further violations will result in substantially harsher sanctions.
3. Restitution: A monetary payment to an individual or group for the cost of damages.
4. Community Service: A community service project shall be established as a form of non-monetary restitution.

5. Enforcement: The Director of Greek Life shall be responsible for the enforcement of sanctions with the assistance of the Chief Justice.
6. Other: The IFJB shall have the ability to prescribe a punishment not listed in the Constitution as long as they deem it appropriate.

I. Removal: Any justice may be removed from office by a unanimous vote of the full membership of the IFJB, excluding the accused justice for any of the following:

1. Nonperformance of duties, including unexcused absences from more than two IFJB meetings.
2. Failure to maintain confidential all proceedings of the IFJB.
3. Conduct unbecoming of an IFJB Justice, or which negatively affects the credibility of the IFJB.

Article X

Amending the Constitution

This Constitution may be amended at an IFC meeting by a three-fourths vote of approval of the IFC, provided the amendment has been present at an IFC meeting at least one week prior to the time of voting.

Article XI

Ratification

The constitution of the IFC is approved by a three-fourths vote of the IFC and is effective immediately.

END OF CONSTITUTION