

Cornell IFC Constitution

Presented by the IFC Executive Board
Amended on 4/29/26

CONSTITUTION OF THE

INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

PREAMBLE

We, the fraternities of Cornell University, in desiring to foster the intellectual, cultural, moral and social advancement of its members, to promote and perpetuate the best interests of the students, the fraternity community, the University, and the Tompkins County community and to assist each other and the University in attaining its educational mission do hereby establish this constitution.

MISSION

We, the Interfraternity Council at Cornell University, set forth this Constitution and Bylaws in order to cause closer working relationships and coordination among its member chapters and Cornell University, in accordance with the policies and standards established by the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). We, the Interfraternity Council (IFC), exist to advance conditions conducive to the success of its member chapters and to promote the progress of the fraternity experience. With this aim, the IFC actively encourages interfraternalism and collaboration with other fraternity/sorority governing councils and student governance bodies. Maintaining a positive working relationship and partnership with the campus administration, alumni, NIC, and international headquarters of member chapters is critical to elevating the role of the IFC.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Interfraternity Council of Cornell University. This organization may be otherwise referred to as the "Interfraternity Council" or the "IFC".

ARTICLE II

Purpose of the IFC

- A. create and maintain cooperation and coordinate affairs among fraternities;
- B. provide programs to foster personal, scholastic, social, leadership, and brotherhood development among member fraternities and their members;
- C. promote membership development, through recruitment;
- D. promote a positive relationship between the general Cornell community, Cornell University administration, Cornell fraternities/sororities, and IFC member fraternities;
- E. act as a medium between member fraternities; and

- F. to ensure that these members:
 - a. other student organizations;
 - b. the student body; and
 - c. the faculty and administration;institute policies and rules that will maintain the purposes of the IFC.
- G. hold member chapters accountable to the event management guidelines and other governing documents.
- H. liaise to the Cornell administration; including the Office of Student and Campus Life, Dean of Students Office, Sorority and Fraternity Life Office, Tatkon Center, Ithaca Fire Department, Ithaca Police Department, Cornell University Police Department and Cornell Environmental Health and Safety; on behalf of the fraternity community.

ARTICLE III

Classes of Membership

There are two classes of membership in the IFC: full and associate. Membership and participation shall be free from discrimination based on race, religion, ethnic groups, national origin, sexual orientation, ability, socioeconomic status, or age. All men are free to join the all-male chapters of the Interfraternity Council regardless of sex assigned at birth. We invite people of all genders to join co-ed chapters of the Interfraternity Council.

ARTICLE IV

Full Membership

Section A. Requirements to Become a Full Member.

To become a full member, a fraternity:

1. must be fully chartered on Cornell University's campus by its parent inter/national organization; or
- 2.
3. must be recognized by the University as a fraternal organization and be in good standing with the University;
4. must have been an associate member of the IFC and during that time must have met all of the obligations of an associate member; and
5. must receive an announcement that an associate member has met the requirements of full membership, effective immediately

Section B. Privileges of a Full Member.

A full member shall:

1. have all privileges and rights under this Constitution and Bylaws, except as limited by actions of the IFC Judicial Board, the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, and the Office of Civil Rights.

2. receive coverage on par with any other member in all IFC publications that list or describe member fraternities; and may
3. participate in IFC-sponsored recruitment;
4. participate in all IFC-sponsored programs;
5. vote at meetings of the Presidents' Council;
6. participate in the fraternity division of intramural sports; and
7. have its members, as they are eligible, hold elective and appointed offices of the IFC.

Section C. Duties of a Full Member.

A full member shall:

1. pay all dues and fees owed to the IFC;
2. abide by this Constitution and Bylaws and all regulations adopted by the Presidents' Council;
3. cooperate in any proceedings of the IFC Judicial Board with which it may be involved and abide by all IFC Judicial Board rulings affecting it;
4. cooperate with all administrative actions of the Executive Board and participate in IFC programs;
5. maintain an updated list of all of its officers, advisors, and alumni board members in Sorority and Fraternity Life;
6. maintain an updated list of its current members in the Sorority and Fraternity Life Office;
7. file in Sorority and Fraternity Life the name of each new member/associate, and update the new member's status when there is a change in that status;
8. abide by all Cornell University regulations and policies;
9. encourage Interfraternity spirit among its members;
10. encourage among its members a spirit of cooperation with the Cornell University community and the city of Ithaca; and
11. encourage scholarship and leadership among its members.

ARTICLE V

Associate Membership

Section A. Requirements to Become an Associate Member.

To become an associate member, a fraternity:

1. must have inter/national organization membership; NIC (North American Interfraternity Council) is preferred.
2. if unsupported by or not a member of any NIC group, must be established for the purpose of becoming a newly established chapter of one of these groups or for purposes that are commensurate with and in no way contrary to the purposes of the IFC; and
3. must be in good standing with the University;
4. must, in a petition for associate membership, submit for review to Sorority and Fraternity Life and the IFC Executive Board:
 - a. its name;
 - b. the names of its members and their student classifications;

- c. the names of its alumni advisors and patrons;
- d. a copy of its local Constitution and Bylaws;
- e. a statement of its purposes;
- f. a record of its activities since its local inception;
- g. plans for developing programs that will assist with membership development under the principles of the IFC. These programs shall specifically include, but are not limited to, leadership development, new member education, recruitment, service, and academic programs;
- h. plans for chapter judicial process, with right of appeal, to ensure fairness in the enforcement of chapter rules;
- i. if appropriate, evidence of support by an NIC, and must, after favorable recommendation from the Sorority and Fraternity Life Office and the IFC Executive Board, receive a 3/4 vote of the Presidents' Council voting in a Regular Session by written ballot to affirm associate membership.
- j. must follow the current Recognition process in place with the Sorority and Fraternity Life Office

Section B. Privileges of an Associate Member.

An associate member may:

- 1. participate in all IFC-sponsored programs;
- 2. speak at meetings of the Presidents' Council;
- 3. participate in the fraternity division of intramural sports; and
- 4. participate in recruitment.

Section C. Duties of an Associate Member.

An Associate member shall:

- 1. pay 75% of the total value of dues charged to full member chapter;
- 2. abide by this Constitution and By Laws;
- 3. abide by all regulations adopted by the Presidents' Council;
- 4. cooperate in any proceeding of the IFC Judicial Board with which it may be involved and abide by all IFC Judicial Board rulings affecting it;
- 5. cooperate with all administrative actions of the IFC Executive Board;
- 6. maintain an updated list of all of its officers, advisors, and alumni board members in the Sorority and Fraternity Life Office;
- 7. maintain an updated list of all its members in the Sorority and Fraternity Life Office;
- 8. file in Sorority and Fraternity Life within one week of new member education the name of each new member, updating the new member's status within one week of a change in that status;
- 9. if it is seeking a Charter from an NIC member, inform Sorority and Fraternity Life of its progress to that end;
- 10. abide by all Cornell University regulations or policies;
- 11. encourage Interfraternity spirit among its members;
- 12. encourage among its members a spirit of cooperation with the Cornell University community and the City of Ithaca; and

13. encourage scholarship and leadership among its members.

ARTICLE VI *Standing*

Section A. Good Standing.

A full member fraternity that satisfies Article IV., Section C. and an associate member fraternity that satisfies Article V., Section C. is in good standing with the IFC.

Section B. Loss of Good Standing.

A full member fraternity may lose its good standing with IFC if it is found responsible for violating any part of Article IV., Section C. An associate member fraternity may lose its good standing with IFC if it is found responsible of violating any part of Article V., Section C. In the event of delinquent Interfraternity Council dues past 2.5 years, the Interfraternity Council Executive Board, with written approval from the Sorority and Fraternity Life Office, reserves the right to withdraw good standing from that member chapter.

Section C. Consequences of Loss of Good Standing.

In accordance with the IFC Judicial Board Bylaws a member fraternity that loses its good standing could be expelled from IFC or could lose some or all of its privileges as granted by this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII *Presidents' Council*

Section A. Duties.

The legislative powers of IFC lie in the Presidents' Council, which shall:

1. approve all regulations that are necessary to maintain and execute the purposes of the IFC;
2. receive and conduct all business appropriately under this Constitution and Bylaws;
3. approve the IFC operating budget as submitted by the Vice President of Finance and approved by the Executive Board;
4. approve all proposals concerning fraternity recruitment.

Section B. Composition.

The Presidents' Council shall be composed of the President, or in their absence, a designated representative from each member fraternity, and the members of the IFC Executive Board shall be members of the Presidents' Council. The chairman of the IFC Presidents' Council shall be the President of the IFC. Note-if a chapter president is unable to attend, the Vice President of Communications must be notified prior to that meeting.

Section C. Obligation.

The Presidents' Council:

1. may amend this constitution and Bylaws by a 2/3 vote;
2. may submit a proposal to be presented by the IFC President to the VP of Student and Campus Life by a simple majority vote.

Section D. Duties of Members of Presidents' Council.

A member of Presidents' Council shall:

1. Attend each regular and special Session Meeting;
2. Abide by this Constitution and Bylaws and the regulations of the Presidents' Council;
3. Cooperate with all judicial proceedings.

Section E. Meetings.

1. The Presidents' Council shall meet bi-weekly in regular session during the Fall and Spring semesters.
2. Special sessions may be called by the President upon written request of the majority of the chapter Presidents, the request of the Executive Board, and/or the Interfraternity Council Advisor;
3. Meet annually in an election meeting to elect officers of the IFC;
4. These meetings shall be attended by the IFC Executive Board, the IFC Advisor, and the President of each member chapter;
5. An IFC Executive Board member cannot represent their chapter on the IFC's President Council;
6. Any chapter that either the President or a delegate misses two meetings in any academic semester, they shall be fined \$100.00. Fines increase 100% for each additional absence.
7. Robert's Rules of Order will be standing operating procedures, unless otherwise stated in this Constitution and/or by-laws.
8. The President of the IFC may appoint a parliamentarian.

Section F. Voting.

1. No proposal or resolution may be voted on unless a quorum of member chapters is established.
2. All voting shall be done in person, or by electronic ballot if necessary, by the chapter President; in the event that the chapter President cannot attend, proxy votes shall be accepted.
3. No IFC officer shall be entitled to a vote, except in the case of a tie, where the IFC President shall be entitled to cast the deciding vote.

ARTICLE VIII
Executive Board

Section A. Authority and Duties

The administrative powers of IFC lie in the Executive Board, which shall execute this Constitution and Bylaws and the regulations of the Presidents' Council and shall:

1. by administrative action not contrary to the authority granted to the Presidents' Council or to the Judicial Board, facilitate on a daily basis the smooth operation of the IFC in accordance with its purpose;
2. submit annually to the Presidents' Council an operating budget;
3. develop proposals of policy for the operation of the IFC;
4. cooperate with the Panhellenic Council, the Multicultural Greek and Fraternal Council, Sorority and Fraternity Life and any other member of the Cornell University community for the advancement of the purposes of the IFC;
5. meet in regular board meetings weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters, and special board meetings at the request of the President or the IFC advisor;
6. plan and implement programs for member organizations.
7. If an elected officer's chapter has its recognition removed following their assuming the position, they will have to step down from the IFC
 - a. an appointment will be made by the executive board to fill the position, which will then be confirmed by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote by Chapter presidents
8. If an elected officer's chapter is put on temporary suspension, they will have their involvement on the Executive Board reviewed

Section B. Composition.

The Executive Council is composed of a:

1. President;
2. Executive Vice President;
3. Vice President for Judicial Affairs;
4. Vice President of Inclusion;
5. Vice President for Recruitment;
6. Vice President for Service and Philanthropy;
7. Vice President for Programming;
8. Vice President for Finance;
9. Vice President for Communications;
10. Vice President of Membership and Alumni Development; and
11. 2 Emeritus officers who served on the prior executive board.
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President for Judicial Affairs

Section C. Duties of a Member of the Executive Board.

An IFC officer shall, throughout the term for which he is elected:

1. attend each regular and special council meeting;
2. carry out their duties as specified in the bylaws;
3. maintain accurate records of all activities and programs for which responsible; and
4. participate in the transfer of files to and a training session with their successor.

Section D. Duties of Emeritus Officers

An emeritus IFC officer shall function as follows:

1. attend regular and special council meetings as needed;
2. assist the current executive board in completing their duties as specified in the bylaws;
3. work on programs as needed at the request of the executive board; and
4. serve as advisors and coaches to their successors and the entire executive board.

ARTICLE IX *Board of Directors*

Section A. Membership

All Board of Directors appointed by the President and approved by the Presidents' Council shall be considered members;

Section B. Duties of a Member of the Board of Directors.

A member of the Board of Directors shall, throughout the term of office for which their was appointed:

1. attend each meeting of the Board of Directors and of the Presidents Council;
2. oversee the operation of their committee as necessary to carry out its function;
3. fulfill duties as specified in the Bylaws;
4. meet weekly with the Vice President, in which the director reports
5. maintain accurate records of all activities and programs for which the director is responsible and report them in finished form to the respective Vice-President;
6. perform duties related to the position as ordered by the Executive Board; and
7. prepare a typed annual report at the end of the director's term.

ARTICLE XII *Formal Recruitment*

Formal Recruitment guidelines will be set by the Vice President of Recruitment and the Recruitment Committee. These rules and guidelines will then be voted on by the Presidents Council for approval.

ARTICLE XIII *IFC Advisor*

The IFC Advisor is appointed by Sorority and Fraternity Life Office. The IFC Advisor may attend all sessions of the Presidents' Council and Executive Board and shall remain informed of all IFC business.

The IFC Advisor shall act as the IFC liaison to Cornell University administration and the Ithaca community.

ARTICLE XIV
Amendments

Section A. Right to Introduce Amendments.

Any member fraternity in good standing may introduce an amendment to the Constitution.

Section B. Procedure for Proposing Amendments.

After the session in which an amendment is introduced, the Presidents' Council shall hear one additional reading of the amendment in its next regular session and must vote on the amendment during the session after that.

Section C. Adoption.

An amendment that receives the affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the Presidents' Council is adopted as a part of this Constitution.