

BYLAWS
INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL
of
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY
Valparaiso, Indiana
Revised November 2009

ARTICLE I
Nominations for Office

Section 1. ***Procedure for Nomination***

In order to be nominated:

- A. A candidate must submit a personal information sheet (including prior service experience and campus involvement).
- B. A candidate must have above a cumulative 2.75 GPA.
- C. A candidate must be interviewed by the current IFC Executive Board and Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Life and New Student Orientation. Those candidates who are qualified or possess the best skill-set for the position will be presented to the Interfraternity Council for an official vote.

ARTICLE II
Election Procedures

Section 1. ***Elected Officers***

- A. The Governing Council shall elect all elected officers, of the Executive Board (President, Vice President/Recruitment, Treasurer/Secretary and Director of Public Relations).
- B. All candidates shall be from an organization with membership to the Interfraternity Council.
- C. The term of office shall be for one year, running from December until November.

Section 2. ***Election Meeting***

- A. The Executive Board shall set the date for the Election Meeting sometime in November and shall announce the date to the IFC at least three weeks beforehand.

Section 3. ***Procedure for an Election Meeting***

- A. At the Election Meeting, in person, each nominee for office shall present his qualifications and goals for the office he seeks within five minutes.
- B. The IFC may then question a candidate for up to two minutes.

Section 4. ***Procedure for Voting***

- A. The Governing Council shall vote on each office one at a time in the following order: 1) President, 2) Vice President/Recruitment 3) Treasurer/Secretary 4) Director of Public Relations.
- B. Voting shall be conducted by written ballot.

- C. If there are two candidates, the winner shall be confirmed by a majority vote; if there are more than two candidates for office then voting will be done until the candidates are narrowed down to the two receiving the most votes.
- D. The Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Life and New Student Orientation shall count the ballots.
- E. The President shall announce the outcome of each vote.
- F. In case of resignation or removal of the President where the Vice President will not assume office, an election will be held in regards to the position. The election procedures of Article II in the IFC Bylaws shall be followed on the meeting date chosen by the executive board and advisor. The new officer shall be installed immediately.

Section 5. *Installation*

- A. Installation of officers will occur at the first IFC meeting after elections.

**ARTICLE III
Duties of Executive Board Officers**

Section 1. *Duties of the President*

The President is responsible for the overall operation of IFC and shall:

- A. Preside over all sessions of the Governing Council and meetings of the Executive Board.
- B. Serve on or represent the IFC on any University or student committee as necessary.
- C. Represent the IFC to the VU Administration, faculty, alumni, the community of Valparaiso, and at all regional conferences.
- D. Coordinate and expedite projects and business of the IFC.
- E. Act as an ex-officio member of the Greek Judicial Board.
- F. Vote on decisions of the Governing Council or Executive Board in the event of a tie.
- G. Work and maintain close contact with the President of the Panhellenic Council in order to improve Greek relations and to better the Greek community.
- H. Establish and disband special committees when necessary.
- I. Shall oversee the Executive Board officers and their programming.
- J. Shall select and supervise the IFC/PH Council Social Coordinator.
- K. Will chair the Police Relations committee.
- L. Will serve on the Greek Life Expansion Committee.

Section 2. *Duties of the Vice President/Recruitment*

The Vice President/Recruitment shall:

- A. Act as IFC president in case of absence or removal or late term removal as seen fit by the executive board and advisor.
- B. Be responsible for coordinating and implementing Recruitment and Pledging according to the constitution and bylaws of the IFC.
- C. Coordinate all Greek Recruitment and Pledging/New Member events.
- D. Develop and publicize a Recruitment Calendar.

- E. Organize and coordinate Recruitment Kickoff.
- F. Make himself available to aid member fraternities with their own Recruitment programs.
- G. Develop and present information for high school students and other incoming students.
- H. Recommend programs to the Executive Board that may be beneficial to fraternity recruitment efforts.
- I. Oversee and coordinate Recruitment and Pledging/New Member activities.
- J. Help the Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Life and New Student Orientation with summer FOCUS.
- K. Publish a Recruitment FOCUS brochure if applicable.
- L. Work with special events when necessary.
- M. Will chair the Recruitment committee.

Section 3. *Duties of the Treasurer/Secretary*

The Treasurer/Secretary shall:

- A. Manage accurate accounts of all IFC financial transactions.
- B. Bill and collect dues and or fines from member fraternities in a timely and efficient manner.
- C. Prepare a budget for the Executive Board to submit to the Governing Council.
- D. Regulate the finances of the IFC in strict line with the budget.
- E. Pay all bills owed by the IFC.
- F. Report monthly on IFC's financial status to the Governing Council.
- G. Be responsible for taking and distributing the minutes of each IFC meeting. The minutes will be sent to the Chapter Presidents, IFC delegates, IFC Executive Board and the Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Life and New Student Orientation.
- H. Will chair the Programming committee.
- I. Will chair the Scholarship committee.

Section 4. *Duties of the Director of Public Relations*

The Director of Public Relations shall:

- A. Be responsible for advertising all IFC functions and events.
- B. Promote the Valparaiso University Greek community.
- C. Be responsible for handling all press concerns of the IFC, both public and private.
- D. Increase public relations with the administration and faculty of Valparaiso University and the local community.
- E. Coordinate all IFC functions deemed as "special events."
- F. Act as the liaison officer of the IFC with the Panhellenic regarding Spring Weekend, and other Greek events.
- G. Coordinate Greek events.
- H. Coordinate with fraternities to emphasize, promote, and implement programs that will improve scholastic achievement of member fraternities and the overall Greek community. A report of these efforts will be given to the IFC at minimum once per semester.

ARTICLE IV Standing Committees of the IFC

Section 1. Standing Committees

- A. The IFC will have five standing committees: the Public Relations committee, Programming committee, Recruitment committee, Scholarship committee, and Police Relations committee.
- B. The committees rosters will be decided by the President of the IFC, and will be set unless conflicts due to appointments arise or a special preference is shown towards a single committee.
- C. The committees will meet at the discretion of the committee chairs. Committee chairs will present the schedule of committee meetings to the committee members and to the IFC by the second regular IFC meeting of the semester. Special meetings of the committee require a minimum of one week notice to the IFC and committee members.

Section 2. Public Relations Committee

- A. The Public Relations committee will exist to improve the interactions between the fraternity community, the Student Body at large, and the City of Valparaiso. The Director of Public Relations will chair this committee.

Section 3. Programming Committee

- A. The Programming committee will exist to propose and foster positive activities that encourage growth in the relation between fraternities and growth in the individual members themselves. The Secretary/Treasurer will chair this committee.

Section 4. Recruitment Committee

- A. The Recruitment committee will exist to promote Greek life in general. The committee will seek out ways to find quality men from the campus community and enlighten them about the fraternity community so that they may feel welcome to explore the community for themselves. The Vice President of Recruitment will chair this committee.

Section 5: Scholarship Committee

- A. The Scholarship committee will exist to support Greek men in their pursuit of academic excellence. The committee will hold at least one academic workshop per semester with each Fraternity's scholarship chair in attendance. These workshops will provide the overall academic goals of the fraternity community. The Secretary/Treasurer will chair this committee.

Section 6: Police Relations Committee

- A. The Police Relations committee will exist to aid in communication between member fraternities, the Valparaiso City Police Department, and the Valparaiso University Police Department. The committee will be made up of one representative from each member fraternity, the Chair, a representative from the Valparaiso City Police Department and a representative from the Valparaiso

University Police Department. The committee will hold at least one meeting a month to discuss relations between the fraternities and the police. The President will chair this committee.

ARTICLE V

Dues, Salaries and Fines

Section 1. ***Dues***

- A. The Governing Council shall set the dues that member fraternities owe the IFC, the current dues being \$8.00 per capita basis from each member fraternity every semester.
- B. The Governing Council shall assess dues on every member fraternity per capita basis; the Treasurer shall base the assessment on the member fraternity's roster of current members and pledge/associates as recorded by the Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Life and New Student Orientations's Office.
- C. Each semester the member fraternities having the highest GPA and the most improved semesterly GPA from the previous semester shall receive a \$100 discount on each member fraternity's dues assessment.
- D. A member fraternity shall pay its dues no later than two school weeks after the Treasurer has assigned dues to the member fraternities, unless the member fraternity has been excused by the executive board for special circumstances.
- E. Late payment interest will accrue two school weeks after the Treasurer has assigned dues to member fraternities at a rate of \$15.00 per school week.
- F. Failure to pay within two school weeks after the Treasurer has assigned dues will automatically result in the loss of voting privilege at the next meeting; also social probation, and/or a fine can be imposed by the Judicial Board.

Section 2. ***Fines***

- A. Each IFC member not present during roll call at a regularly called meeting or at an IFC sponsored event/program that has been designated as required, will be fined \$15.00 for each person(s) not in attendance.
- B. Failure to pay a fine within two school weeks will result in loss of voting privilege, social probation, and/or a fine as mandated by the Greek Judicial Board.

ARTICLE VI

Recruitment Rules

Section 1. ***Regulations***

- A. Rush (Recruitment) will take place during a two week period during the fall semester and a three week period during the spring semester. The dates of recruitment will be announced by the Vice President of Recruitment and the Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Life and New Student Orientation to the IFC the semester prior.
- B. A rushee is defined as any non-affiliated full-time male student at Valparaiso University.

- C. A recruitment event shall be defined as a gathering led by fraternity men, convened for the sole purpose to recruit new members.
- D. Risk management registered events are not considered recruitment events.
- E. All recruitment events are dry. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- F. Women are prohibited from assisting chapters with recruitment activities. The exception to this rule is the chapter sweetheart who may serve as a hostess during recruitment events.
- G. All recruitment events not previously on the all-Greek rush calendar must be announced to the Vice President of Recruitment 24 hours prior to the event.
- H. Advertising of rush events shall not contain (either by explicit emphasis or by implying) 1.) Any connection with alcohol. 2.) Sexual content. 3.) Racial discrimination or 4.) Any negative connotation or slanderous description or depiction of other fraternities. All advertising must be approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Life and New Student Orientation.
- I. Balloting Day shall take place on the last day of recruitment. No fraternity man may be in the immediate vicinity of the balloting location during balloting. Exact details as to the balloting location and the boundaries of its immediate vicinity will be announced by the Vice President of Recruitment prior to the event.
- J. Bids may be handed out at any time during rush/recruitment. However, no bids may be turned in until Balloting Day. Exceptions to this can be made by the Assistant Dean of Students for Greek Life and New Student Orientation.
- K. The Vice President of Recruitment will provide a list of all new members within the hour after Balloting has concluded.
- L. Grades must be checked before a bid may be given out.

Section 2. ***Rights of the Rushees***

- A. No rushees shall be sought after by a fraternity in a manner that isolates him from members of other fraternities or does not allow enough personal time to perform his regular University activities.
- B. No rushee shall be identified with a particular fraternity (i.e., through pledge/associate pins, fraternity letters, etc.) which isolates him from members of other fraternities prior to the conclusion of balloting.
- C. For rushees, all functions on nights before classes must end by midnight, and may not begin before 8:00 a.m.
- D. Rushee's will ballot alone in a room without any undue pressure from any fraternity member.

ARTICLE VII
Association/Pledging

Section 1. ***Associate Member/Pledge Requirements***

- A. A rushee is eligible to associate/pledge a fraternity only if he is registered as a full-time student of the University; this includes commuters, and is a second semester freshman.

- B. A rushee must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 or the semester before before he associates/pledges a GPA of a 2.50. Final decisions are left to the discretion of the Assistant Dean of Students.
- C. A fee shall be charged by and made payable to the IFC by each person who associates/pledges a fraternity; this is a one time only fee, which is good for the duration of the individual's collegiate career.
- D. Any student who wishes to pledge must have had the opportunity to participate in one recruitment period before he will be allowed to pledge.
- E. The day after the official balloting day a pledging period of no more than six weeks in an 8 week period will occur.

Section 2. ***Balloting***

- A. Balloting shall be accomplished as the prospective rushee records his association/pledge with the IFC.
- B. For freshmen, balloting will occur in the spring semester; for upperclassmen, Balloting shall occur in both semesters.
- C. The IFC shall record the ballot and inform member fraternities, as well as the Assistant Dean, of the ballot; it shall be the responsibility of the respective fraternity to notify the rushee of his acceptance and affiliation.

Section 3. ***Duration of Association/Pledging***

- A. All association/pledging activities must be completed within 6 weeks of an 8 week period.
- B. The association/pledging period shall be no longer than 6 weeks of an 8 week period.

Section 4. ***Association/Pledging Restrictions***

- A. All associate/pledge functions on nights before school days must end by midnight, and may not begin on school days before 8:00 a.m.
- B. Associates/pledges must be allowed a minimum of five undisturbed hours study time between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m.

Section 5. ***Miscellaneous***

- A. Any associate/pledge of a fraternity who is expelled or voluntarily resigns his association may not be affiliated with another fraternity until thirty days after his resignation or expulsion has been announced to the IFC or the Assistant Dean.
- B. A \$25 fine will be assessed per person to any fraternity that does not attend a session of the new member education speaker series. Exceptions can only be made with a valid excuse and notification of the Recruitment/Pledging chair three days in advance of the event.

ARTICLE VIII
Statement on Hazing and Pre-Initiation Activities

Section 1.

- A. All fraternities shall conduct constructive association/pledging activities defined as educational whereby a candidate (associate/pledge) for membership does not surrender any legal, moral, or social right while being instructed to participate in a fraternity's ideals and codes.
- B. The IFC believes that true fraternalism is nurtured in an atmosphere of social and moral responsibility, respect for duly constituted authority, and loyalty to the principles of higher education.
- C. The IFC further believes that while social behavior cannot be legislated, a fraternity without morally sound precepts and practices is not a constructive influence upon college men.
- D. In light of this position the IFC shall not tolerate any fraternity "hazing" of associate or initiated members.
- E. Each fraternity's new member educator shall discuss the University's and the IFC's policy regarding hazing and pre-initiation activities with each associate/pledge class no later than 10 days after Balloting Day.

Section 2.

- A. The IFC adopts the definition of hazing of the Fraternity Executive Association: The Association defines hazing as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities and situations include paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside the confines of the house; wearing, publicly, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late work sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution.

**ARTICLE IX
Judicial Board**

Section 1. *Judicial Board*

- A. See Greek Judicial Board Constitution.

**ARTICLE X
A Statement of Fraternal Values and Ethics**

Basic Expectations

In an effort to lessen the disparity between fraternity ideals and individual behavior and to personalize these ideals in the daily undergraduate experience, the following Basic Expectations of fraternity membership have been established:

I will know and understand the ideals expressed in my fraternity Ritual and will strive to incorporate them in my daily life.

II

I will strive for academic achievement and practice academic integrity.

III

I will respect the dignity of all persons; therefore I will not physically, mentally, psychologically or sexually abuse or haze any human being.

IV

I will protect the health and safety of all human beings.

V

I will respect my property and the property of others; therefore, I will neither abuse nor tolerate the abuse of property.

VI

I will meet my financial obligations in a timely manner.

VII

I will neither use nor support the use of illegal drugs; I will neither abuse nor support the abuse of alcohol.

VIII

I acknowledge that a clean and attractive environment is essential to both physical and mental health; therefore I will do all in my power to see that the chapter property is properly cleaned and maintained.

IX

I will challenge all my fraternity members to abide by these fraternal expectations and will confront those who violate them.

ARTICLE XI

Statement of Sexual Abuse, Illegal Substances, and Racial Discrimination

Section 1. *Sexual Abuse*

- A. The IFC will not tolerate or condone any form of sexually abusive behavior on the part of its member fraternities, whether physical, mental, or emotional; this is to include any actions which are demeaning to another including, but not limited to date rape, gang rape or verbal harassment.

Section 2. *Illegal Substances*

- A. The IFC position statement on illegal or controlled substances is that the possession, sale, and/or use of any illegal drugs or controlled substances at any

fraternity sponsored event or at any event that an observer would associate with the fraternity, is strictly prohibited.

Section 3. ***Discrimination***

The IFC will not tolerate nor condone any form of racial discrimination or behavior on the part of its member fraternities whether physical, mental or emotional.

ARTICLE XII
Social Nature of Fraternities

Section 1. ***Social Functions***

- A. Fraternities are exclusive membership organizations whose social functions are for the sole enjoyment of their members and invited guests; all social functions fall under the guidelines of the Risk Management policy.

ARTICLE XIII
Chapter Standards

Section 1. ***Operating Standards***

- A. Each fraternity is expected to conduct its affairs in accordance with the missions, purposes, and operational guidelines of both the University and its National Fraternity. The nature of the program of the fraternity, together with the manner in which the Fraternity relates to the University community, should reflect character and behavior consistent with these educational and fraternal goals.
- B. Every fraternity should strive to meet the criteria of the President's Award of Excellence.
- C. Each fraternity must maintain a semester GPA of 2.00 or greater; any chapter failing to attain this standard will be subject to review of the Greek Judicial Board.
- D. Each fraternity's new member class must obtain a semester GPA of 2.00 or greater; any chapter failing to attain this standard will be subject to review of the Greek Judicial Board.

ARTICLE XIV
Greek Relations

Section 1. ***Inter-Greek Relations***

- A. It is accepted that all fraternities and sororities must work together in striving toward constantly improving the Greek community.

ARTICLE XV
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Section 1. ***Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia***

- A. Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia will report to IFC.
- B. As a member of IFC, they will follow all guidelines under the IFC Constitution, IFC Bylaws, Risk Management Policy, and Greek Judicial Board.

ARTICLE XVI

Amendments

Section 1. *Amendments*

- A. Amendments to these bylaws are explained in Article X of the Constitution.