**CONSTITUTION OF**

**THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL**

**AT VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY**

**PREAMBLE**

In order to promote and serve the best interests of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and its fraternities, promote cooperation and closer friendship among member fraternities, promote positive relations among fraternities, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and the Community, we do set forth and adopt this Constitution for the Interfraternity Council at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on behalf of its fraternities.

**ARTICLE I: NAME AND GOVERNANCE**

**Section 1. *Name.*** This body shall be officially known and designated as the Interfraternity Council at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University located in Blacksburg, Virginia. The Interfraternity Council may hereinafter be referred to as the IFC and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University may hereinafter be referred to as the University.

**Section 2. *Governance.*** The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, hereinafter referred to as the OFSL, shall be the primary administrative unit of the University overseeing the activities of the IFC as defined in *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and General Men’s and Women’s Fraternities/Sororities Resolution on Relationship*.

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

**Section 1. *Purpose*.**

The Purpose of a governing organization that coordinates the efforts of fraternity men from different national and international organizations to create a fraternal experience that makes the best of every man involved. To further our vision as a community to be the best possible version of ourselves while exemplifying a shared values-set that reflects a commitment to friendship, personal development, and a life guided by the principles of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).To unify member chapters through our shared experiences, help redirect fraternities that have fallen short as values-based organizations, and strengthen the quality of brotherhood by utilizing a governance style which enhances our approachability and ability to be a resource for chapter development.

**ARTICLE III: LAWS ENUMERATED**

**Section 1. *Laws Enumerated*.** The IFC of the University shall be governed by the following laws in their most recent publication in order as placed below:

1. The Policies and Regulations of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
2. The Standards, Policies, and Regulations of the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC)
3. The Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Interfraternity Council.

**ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. *Qualifications.*** Any men’s general fraternity chapter or colony affiliated with an international/national general fraternity and in compliance with all NIC standards is eligible for full membership in the Interfraternity Council. This does not include professional, service, academic, honorary, or business Greek letter societies. However, the IFC will not restrict any fraternity that meets the membership criteria from joining the IFC.

**Section 2. *Definition.*** A member of the IFC can be defined as: member in good standing, member not in good standing, and provisional member. All chapters or colonies currently meeting the requirements of one of the following definitions shall have recognition by the IFC.

A. A member in good standing of the IFC is any chapter that has recognition by the University and the IFC. Furthermore, a member of the IFC is defined as one that is under no sanction by any governing body or set of rules as defined in Article III and which is currently meeting all requirements of a member in good standing.

B. A member not in good standing is any chapter or colony that fails or has failed to meet the parameters of Article III and/or is currently under sanction by any appropriate governing body.

C. A provisional member is a colony to which has an invitation of membership but has not yet met the requirements of membership in good standing for a chapter as defined by the IFC.

D. For the purposes of membership definition, a sanction shall be defined as any lawful penalty imposed upon a member by any appropriate governing body in response to that member’s actions or inactions.

**ARTICLE V: ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS**

**Section 1. *Organization.***

The IFC shall be divided into two branches: A legislative and executive.

**Section 2. *Legislative Branch.***

The legislative branch of the IFC shall be the Presidents’ Council. The Council shall consist of the President of each fraternity, the elected officers, and the appointed officers of the IFC.

A. Each fraternity shall have one vote.

B. The IFC President shall have the right to vote in the case of a tie.

C. If the fraternity President is unable to attend the weekly meetings of the IFC, he must appoint an alternate and inform the IFC President at least one (1) week, seven (7) calendar days, before the first regular meeting of Spring and Fall Terms. The President of any member fraternity shall appoint no more than one alternate per semester to represent his fraternity in his absence. This alternate assumes all the rights of the President in the President’s absence.

D. For the purposes of attendance, any initiated brother of all member fraternities may attend a meeting of the IFC *in place of* the fraternity President/the properly appointed alternate. This in place of assumes all the rights of the President in the President’s absence.

**Section 3. *Executive Branch.***

The Executive Branch of the IFC shall be the Elected and Appointed Officers of the IFC. The Executive Branch may hereinafter be referred as the IFC Executive Committee. There shall be no order of authority among the officers outside of the President and, in absence of the President, the Executive Vice President.

***i*.** The Elected Officers shall consist of the following:

A. President

B. Vice President of Administration

C. Vice President of Finance

D. Vice President of Recruitment

E. Vice President of Health and Safety

F. Vice President of Community Standards

***ii*.** The Appointed Officers shall consist of the following:

1. Director of Scholarship
2. Director of Advocacy and University Initiatives
3. Director of Philanthropy and Service
4. Director of Member Education
5. Director of Athletics

***iii*.** ***Nomination and Selection of Executive Officers.***

The Nomination and Selection of the Executive Officers shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules and procedures enumerated in Article V of the Interfraternity Council Bylaws.

***iv*.** ***Executive Committee Voting Rights.***

Within the IFC Executive Committee, voting members shall consist of all the elected and appointed officers. The OFSL’s IFC Advisor shall serve as a non-voting *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee.

***v*. *Executive Committee Responsibility.***

The Executive Committee is responsible for implementation of the budget, tracking of all expenses, review of weekly priorities and events, discussion of emergency issues, and promoting growth in the areas of recruitment, continuous membership development, standards and scholarship, leadership training, and healthy competition between member fraternities.

***vi*. *Officer Eligibility*.**

Any initiated brother of all member fraternities is Eligible for election or appointment provided that he has met the requirements enumerated in section Article V of the Interfraternity Council Bylaws.

***vii*. *Terms of Office.***

Officers of the IFC shall be elected once a year during the last five weeks of the Fall Semester. The term for each Elected and Appointed Officer shall begin and end on the first academic day of the Spring Semester.

***viii.*** ***Vacated Elected Office***

Should an Elected Office of the IFC be vacated for any reason, the President of the IFC or his designee shall call a special election. In the absence of the IFC President, the Vice President shall assume his duties and responsibilities until the special election.

***ix. Vacated Appointed Office***

Should an appointed office of the IFC be vacated for any reason, the President of the IFC will appoint a member, in consultation with remaining members of the Executive Branch as defined in Article V Section 3 of the Interfraternity Council By-Laws, by opening applications for the any eligible member to apply in accordance with the Interfraternity Council Constitution. The application will open within three (3) days (72 hours) after office has been vacated and will remain open until the President of IFC closes the application. The Vacated Appointed Office will be filled within two (2) weeks (14 days) after the application closes.

**x. *All Vacated Offices***

All Vacated Offices, either Vacated Elected Office or Vacated Appointed Office, be in accordance with Article V, if applicable.

**ARTICLE VI: EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. *Request for Expansion.*** The OFSL shall have the sole right to extend an invitation to a national/international men’s general fraternity accordance to the NIC Policies, Standards, and Regulations. This invitation shall only be extended after a formal written request has been received by the OFSL from an authorized unit of said fraternity.

**Section 2. *Qualifications for Membership.*** The Presidents’ Council shall set the standards for a provisional member to reach good standing status.

**ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS**

**Section 1. *Regular Presidents Council Meetings.***

Regular meetings of the Presidents’ Council shall be held during the semester with a minimum of two per month during the spring and fall semesters at which a quorum is present. No official business may be conducted without a quorum present.

**Section 2. *Special President Council Meetings.***

Special meetings of the Presidents’ Council may be called by the IFC President or by a petition of one third (1/3) of the member fraternities. The meeting may be held no earlier than 48 hours after proper notification by the IFC President to the member fraternities.

**Section 4. *Quorum.***

*A* Quorum consist of 2/3 of voting membership.

**Section 5. *Parliamentary Procedure.***

The newest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern in all Regular and Special IFC Meetings.

**ARTICLE VIII: FINANCE**

**Section 1. *Funds and Collection.***

Funds of the IFC will be gathered from all member fraternities as a per-member-based fee in which the fixed amount will be charged for the total number of all initiated members and associates, candidates, pledges, or any other title.

**Section 2. *Budget*.**

The budget of the IFC shall be determined by the Vice President of Finance in consultation with the Executive Committee. The budget for Fall and Spring Semester shall be presented to the Presidents’ Council for ratification prior to the start of that term.

**ARTICLE IX: BYLAWS**

**Section 1. *Bylaws.***

The Interfraternity Council shall be empowered through its legislative capacity to enact Bylaws supplementary to the Constitution in all areas in which the members participate. Included, but not exclusive to this are: recruitment, new member education, initiation, scholarship, social, intramural, judicial matters, finance, and risk management.

**Section 2. *Amendments to the Bylaws.***

Any Amendment to the Bylaws may be modified or amended during a Regular President Council Meeting after being submitted to the council, in writing, one (1) week (7 days) before the meeting in which the member fraternity would like their proposal acted upon. A 2/3 vote is required for any amendment or change to be approved.

**ARTICLE X: CONFLICTS WITH LAWS ENUMERATED**

**Section 1. *Conflicts.***

Any part of this Constitution, Bylaws, or Policies that are in conflict with an overriding law as defined in Article III is automatically deemed null and void.

**ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1. *Procedure for Amendments and Changes.***

A Proposed Amendment or change to the Constitution may be submitted, in writing, to the Executive Branch one (1) week (7 days) before the meeting in which the member fraternity would like their proposal acted upon. There will be a first read of the Proposed Amendment or change at the Regular Presidents Council Meeting following the one (1) week (7 days) timeline upon receipt of the written proposal. The next meeting the Proposed Amendment or change is able to be voted upon. A three fourths (3/4) vote of the voting membership of the IFC Presidents Council is required for the approval of the Proposed Amendment or Change to the Constitution.

**ARTICLE XIII: RATIFICATION**

**Section 1. *Ratification.*** This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon ratification by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the voting membership and approval by the Commission on Student Affairs. It shall supersede any previous Constitution of the Interfraternity Council.

Date of Ratification: *Oct. 30, 2019*