

# The Constitution of the Interfraternity Council of James Madison University

Updated: October 2019

## ARTICLE I. NAME

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the James Madison University Interfraternity Council (henceforth referred to as "IFC").

## ARTICLE II. MISSION AND PURPOSE

- Section 1. Mission
- a. The mission of the IFC shall be to foster the advancement of men's social fraternities at James Madison University.
- Section 2. Purpose
- a. The purpose of the IFC shall be to dedicate itself to the advancement of fraternal excellence in the following areas: community development, risk management, scholarship, community service, member recruitment and education, and alumni/public relations.

## ARTICLE III. GOVERNANCE

- Section 1. Governing Documents
- a. The IFC shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the policies of James Madison University, the IFC Constitution, the IFC Judicial Policy, the IFC Expansion Policy, and the IFC/Panhellenic Standards Policy.
  - b. In the event that the above documents conflict with this Constitution, interpretation of the policies and procedures shall rest with the IFC Advisor(s).
  - c. Policies and procedures put forth by the Inter/National Headquarters of the IFC's recognized organizations shall be used to reasonably inform the governance of the IFC.
- Section 2. Structure
- a. IFC shall consist of 2 (two) separate bodies: the Executive Board and the President's Council.

## ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. The IFC membership shall consist of the associate and initiated members of the men's social fraternities recognized by the IFC and will be recognized as Full Voting Members of the IFC.
- Section 2. IFC Recognition of Chapters/Colonies
- a. Any chapter or colony that wishes to petition for recognition from the IFC must satisfy all criteria listed in the IFC Expansion Policy.
- Section 3. Removal of IFC Recognition
- a. A chapter/colony currently recognized by the IFC may have its recognition removed for any of the following reasons:
    1. The chapter/colony is no longer recognized by its inter/national headquarters.

2. The chapter/colony is no longer recognized by James Madison University.
- b. The President's Council may recommend to the IFC Advisor that a recognized chapter/colony be considered for loss of recognition through a vote of no confidence. The vote of no confidence must pass by a 75% vote by the IFC President's Council.
  1. The IFC Advisor will take the vote under advisement and bring it to the attention of the James Madison University administration, as well as the recognized chapter/colony's Inter/National Headquarters staff.
  2. The IFC Advisor and Graduate Assistant will coordinate with the individuals listed above and return a decision as soon as possible.
- c. The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, in conjunction with JMU administration and the recognized chapter/colony's Inter/National Headquarters staff, retains the right to revoke the recognition of a recognized chapter/colony without a vote by the IFC.

#### ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP FEES

##### Section 1. Membership Fees of Full Voting Members

- a. Membership fees of Full Voting Members shall be ten (10) dollars per initiated per semester.
- b. Full Voting Member fees shall be paid in full by the date indicated by the Vice President of the Treasury, but shall be no earlier than October 15<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> of the Fall and Spring semesters.
  1. The Vice President of the Treasury shall provide Full Voting Members with an invoice at least two (2) weeks prior to the due date of the fees.

##### Section 2. Failure to Pay Membership Fees by a Full Voting Member

- a. Failure to pay membership fees in full by the indicated due date shall result in the Full Voting Member's voting rights being stripped until the membership fees are paid in full.
  1. In the event that a Full Voting Member's voting rights are stripped, the Full Voting Member shall not be considered for the purposes of establishing quorum.
  2. Failure to pay membership fees in full by the established due date in two (2) consecutive semesters shall result in the Full Voting Member's voting rights to be stripped for the next semester.

#### ARTICLE VI. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

##### Section 1. Composition of the Executive Board

- a. The Executive Board of the IFC shall consist of the following officers:
  1. President
  2. President-Elect

3. Vice President for Community Development
4. Vice President for Standards and Risk Management
5. Vice President for Member Recruitment and Education
6. Vice President for Alumni and Public Relations
7. Vice President of the Treasury
8. Vice President for Scholarship

b. Members of the Executive Board shall not be counted towards quorum for the President's Council and shall not have a vote in matters brought before the IFC unless in situations specified in this Constitution.

Section 2. Terms of Executive Board Members

- a. The term of all Executive Board officers shall be one calendar year. The term shall begin on December 1<sup>st</sup> and end November 30<sup>th</sup> of the next calendar year.
- b. For newly created positions during an active term, the first elected member may serve the remainder of the current term as well as the following term.

Section 3. Qualifications of Executive Board Members

- a. Candidates for any position on the IFC Executive Board shall be a member in good standing of a colony/chapter that has been a member of the Interfraternity Council of James Madison University for at least two years and have been a member of their colony/chapter for no fewer than two (2) semesters. Candidacy shall not be restricted on the basis of age, ability, ethnicity, national origin, race, color, religion, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.
- b. Candidates for any position on the IFC Executive Board shall have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.75 in the semester prior to their election.
  1. For VP of Scholarship, the candidate shall have a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.15 prior to the election.
- c. Candidates for any position on the IFC Executive Board shall have no more than one (1) strike or major violation, as determined by James Madison University's Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices.
  1. A candidate with more than one (1) strike or major violation may be permitted to participate in an election at the discretion of the IFC President and Advisor(s).
- d. Candidates for any position on the IFC Executive Board shall not currently hold the position of President or highest-ranking officer of their fraternity.
- e. Candidates for any position on the IFC Executive Board shall be able to serve their full, calendar year term.

Section 4. Responsibilities of the Executive Board

- a. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to determine the direction and future of the IFC and to work closely with the IFC

Advisor, Graduate Assistant, and other appropriate staff members to set and accomplish goals in the best interest of the IFC as a whole.

- b. It shall be the responsibility of the Vice Presidents of the Executive Board to design and implement programs related to their particular area of focus, and to serve as “consultants” for IFC members who have questions or need assistance in the Vice President’s Area of Focus.
- c. Each Executive Board member shall hold office hours each week totaling two hours in the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, and shall post these hours outside of the IFC office. Executive Board members are encouraged to schedule meetings with IFC members during this time to address concerns, questions, etc.
- d. This Vice President of the Treasury will assist with the development and approval process of the IFC budget, shall approve the payment of all expenses incurred by the IFC, shall be tasked with creating and distributing invoices to chapters in matters of dues collection and fines collection and shall offer council to the IFC regarding matters of finance and budgetary concerns.

#### Section 5. Election of Executive Board Members

- a. The IFC President shall make the announcement of an election at a President’s Council meeting one month prior to the date of the election.
- b. Applications shall be made available on the IFC Page of the Fraternity & Sorority Life website. All documents shall be submitted electronically – paper copies will not be accepted.
- c. Campaigning (flyers, Facebook groups, etc.) for any position on the IFC Executive Board is strictly forbidden. The IFC President shall have sole discretion as to whether or not a particular action constitutes campaigning.
  1. Candidates found to be in violation of the campaigning policy shall be immediately disqualified and shall not be permitted to re-apply for an IFC Executive Board position for one calendar year.
- c. The IFC Executive Board shall set a due date before the date of the election. Incomplete applications shall not be considered.
- d. Applicants shall be given up to five minutes to explain to the President’s Council why they applied for the position. Visual aids are permitted, however limited technology will be available.
- e. IFC Elections shall proceed as follows:
  1. No more than two (2) members of the same colony/chapter shall be permitted to hold a position on the IFC Executive Board.
  2. For the President-Elect, the applicant receiving the most votes by the President’s Council shall receive the position

3. For Vice-President Elections:
  - a. Vice-President Applicants will run to be on the IFC Executive Board, and shall indicate their position preferences on their application
  - b. President's Council will choose 5 most qualified individuals; the 5 applicants receiving the most votes by the President's Council shall serve as Vice-Presidents
  - c. Upon election, IFC & President's council will delegate where each individual is most qualified and be designated a position that fits their skills, experience, and preferences
4. For positions created during an active term, the applicant receiving the most votes by the President's Council shall receive the position
- f. In the case of a tie between applicants:
  1. There will be a revote between the candidates with equal votes
  2. In the chance of a second tie, IFC President will make final decision

#### Section 6.

##### Removal of Executive Board Members

- a. In the event that an IFC Executive Board member has not fulfilled the duties of his position or has behaved in a manner contrary to the mission and purpose of the IFC, he may be removed from office.
  1. The IFC President shall document all behaviors and concerns expressed by other IFC Executive Board members and Advisors and state those concerns at the next President's Council meeting, and then request a vote to remove the IFC Executive Board Member from office.
  2. A list of the behaviors and concerns documented by the IFC President shall be made available to the IFC Executive Board member in question one (1) week prior to the IFC President's request for a vote. Only documented behaviors and concerns may be used as evidence.
  3. Prior to a vote by the President's Council, the IFC Executive Board member shall have up to five (5) minutes to defend his behaviors and acknowledge the concerns provided to him.
  4. The IFC Executive Board Member shall be removed from his position by a super majority (66%) vote by the President's Council.
- b. In the event than an IFC Executive Board member resigns or is removed from his position the vacancy shall be announced at the next President's Council meeting. Interested members shall be permitted to apply for the position for the next two weeks.
  1. Applicants must meet all qualifications described in Article V., Section III.

2. Applications shall be reviewed by the IFC Executive Board and the position will be filled by the applicant receiving the most votes by IFC Executive Board members.
- c. In the event that an IFC Executive Board member resigns or is removed from his position more than halfway through his second semester in office (after October 15<sup>th</sup>), the position shall not be filled and remaining duties shall be divided amongst the remaining members of the IFC Executive Board.

#### ARTICLE VII. THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

- Section 1. Composition of the President's Council
  - a. The President's Council shall consist of the President (or highest ranking position) or his designee from each Full Voting Member colony/chapter recognized by the IFC.
- Section 2. Responsibilities of the President's Council
  - a. It shall be the responsibility of the President's Council to identify and discuss the needs of its member organizations.
  - b. It shall be the responsibility of the President's Council to provide feedback to members of the IFC Executive Board, and to ensure that the stated mission and purpose of the IFC are met.
- Section 3. Voting Procedures for the President's Council
  - a. For a vote to occur, there shall be a quorum of members of the President's Council. Quorum shall be defined as the total number of recognized fraternities minus three (3).
  - b. Each member of the President's Council shall have one (1) vote, so long as his fraternity is in good standing with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and the IFC.
  - c. Voting shall take place on a blind ballot, provided by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
  - e. Unless specified elsewhere in this constitution, the standard for a motion to pass shall be a super majority (66%).
  - e. Any member of the President's Council shall be permitted to abstain from voting on any matter.
    1. As an abstention is not a vote in the affirmative, abstentions shall count as a vote against the motion on the floor and will not adjust quorum.
- Section 4. Removal from President's Council
  - a. A member of the President's Council shall forfeit all privileges if any of the following conditions are met:
    1. Two (2) or more unexcused absences are accrued in the course of one semester. An excused absence shall be defined as the presence of an extenuating circumstance (class, meeting, family emergency, etc.) communicated to and approved by the IFC President at least 24 hours in advance.
    2. The chapter/colony is no longer recognized by its inter/national headquarters.

3. The chapter/colony is no longer recognized by James Madison University.

ARTICLE VIII.

MEETINGS

Section 1.

Meetings of the IFC Executive Board

- a. The IFC Executive Board shall meet on a weekly basis. When a President's Council meeting is scheduled, the IFC Executive Board and President's Council shall meet together.
- b. The IFC President shall preside over all meetings of the IFC Executive Board. In the event that the IFC President is unable to attend a meeting of the IFC Executive Board, the IFC President-Elect shall preside over the meeting. In the event that the IFC President-Elect is either unable or not in office, the IFC Vice President for Community Development shall preside over the meeting.
- c. Any member of the IFC Executive Board or IFC Advisor may call for an emergency meeting, should he/she deem it necessary. At least 24 hours advance notice shall be given if such meeting is to occur.

Section 2.

Meetings of the President's Council

- a. The President's Council shall meet on a bi-monthly (twice per month) basis.
- b. The IFC President shall preside over all meetings of the President's Council. In the event that the IFC President is unable to attend a meeting of the President's Council, the IFC President-Elect shall preside over the meeting. In the event that the IFC President-Elect is either unable or not in office, the IFC Vice President for Community Development shall preside over the meeting.
- c. Any member of the President's Council or IFC Executive Board, or IFC Advisor may call for an emergency meeting, should he deem it necessary. At least 24 hours advance notice shall be given if such meeting is to occur.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS TO GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- a. Amendments to this Constitution or other governing documents of the IFC may be proposed at any meeting of the President's Council by any member of the IFC Executive Board, President's Council, or Advisor.
- b. Proposed amendments to this Constitution or other governing documents shall be discussed to the satisfaction of the IFC Executive Board, President's Council, and Advisor(s).
  1. A vote by the President's Council shall occur at the next President's Council meeting after the vote has been proposed.
  2. The individual proposing the amendment may motion that a vote on the amendment be expedited – the motion shall pass with a majority (51%) vote by the President's Council

in favor of the expedited vote. IFC Executive Board members and Advisor(s) shall not vote.

3. The proposed amendment to the constitution shall pass with a super majority (66%) vote by the President's Council. The IFC Executive Board and Advisor(s) are permitted to cast one (1) vote per person.