Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies of The Interfraternity Council at the University of Pittsburgh

Amended April 20th, 2020

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# Constitution of the Interfraternity Council at the University of Pittsburgh

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## PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Interfraternity Council at the University of Pittsburgh, striving to cultivate an environment of interfraternalism, leadership, and academic excellence, and recognizing the importance of working toward this end in unity, hereby resolve to serve the University of Pittsburgh as exemplars of fraternity values and thus affirm our Constitution.

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## ARTICLE I: TITLE

### **Section 1.01** This organization shall be known as the Interfraternity Council at the University of Pittsburgh and henceforth shall be referred to as IFC.

## ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### **Section 2.01** To promote and provide opportunities for cooperation amongst fraternities at the University and their members

### **Section 2.02** To provide programming and opportunities which result in the educational and personal betterment of its members

### **Section 2.03** To represent the needs and interests of the fraternity community to the University of Pittsburgh and appropriate external organizations

### **Section 2.04** To encourage service by members to the University of Pittsburgh and surrounding community

### **Section 2.05** To standardize recruitment, member education, social activities, and other fraternal functions as they pertain to the IFC and its members, and to ensure compliance with policies and procedures set forth by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

### **Section 3.01** There shall be three classes of membership: Voting, Associate, and Colony Membership.

### **Section 3.02** (Inter)national men’s social fraternities recognized by the University of Pittsburgh through the Vice Provost and Dean of Students and in possession of an (inter)national charter shall be Voting Members of IFC and be granted suffrage and the ability to have full representation on the Executive Board of IFC.

#### **A**. Voting Membership shall be recognized once an (inter)national charter is conferred upon an organization and the organization has received the approval of the IFC.

### **Section 3.03** All (Inter)national men’s social fraternities with a multicultural or identity-specific mission recognized by the University of Pittsburgh through the Vice Provost and Dean of Students and in possession of an (inter)national charter shall be Associate Members of IFC and be granted suffrage and the ability to have representation on the Executive Board of IFC, except the position of the President.

### **Section 3.04** (Inter)national men’s social fraternities recognized by the University of Pittsburgh through the Vice Provost and Dean of Students but who are not in possession of an (inter)national charter shall be Colony Members of IFC; these members do not have suffrage and may not have representation on the Executive Board of IFC.

### **Section 3.05** (Inter)national men’s social fraternities seeking or invited to join the University of Pittsburgh community shall be addressed in accordance with the IFC Expansion and Colonization Policy Guidelines.

### **Section 3.06** Fraternities whose recognition by the University has been revoked or suspended, or who otherwise are not permitted to operate on campus, forfeit all rights, responsibilities, and representation in IFC.

### **Section 3.07** All member fraternities shall ensure an equal opportunity to all undergraduate students at the University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh Campus) for admission to membership in the fraternity in compliance with federal and state laws, as well as the University of Pittsburgh’s Affirmative Action plan.

### **Section 3.08** All member fraternities must affirm and uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of IFC, as well as applicable policies and procedures set forth by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the University of Pittsburgh.

### **Section 3.09** All member fraternities shall affirm and comply with the University policy on hazing.

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## ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE BOARD

### **Section 4.01** The Executive Board is the governing body of the Interfraternity Council and shall hold executive authority in the administration and long-term preservation of the organization.

### **Section 4.02** The Executive Board shall comprise the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chief Justice, Programming Chair, Recruitment Chair, Membership Education Chair, Communications Chair, and the Greek Week Representative (as elected by Voting Members).

### **Section 4.03** Rank and file of the Executive Board officers is hereby established as follows: President, Vice President, Chief Justice, Recruitment Chair, Membership Education Chair, Secretary, Programming Chair, Treasurer, Communications Chair, and Greek Week Representative.

### **Section 4.04** Service on IFC Executive Board is limited to currently enrolled full-time students at the University of Pittsburgh with a GPA that meets or exceeds the All IFC Average GPA

#### The positions of President, Vice President and Chief Justice may only be filled by those who have been in an IFC fraternity for at least one full year

#### **A**. Officers of IFC shall be initiated members of Voting Member or Associate Members organizations.

B. Associate Members may not serve as President of the IFC

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#### **C**. A student may not concurrently hold the position of President within their chapter and serve on the IFC Executive Board.

#### **D.** A student may not concurrently hold a position on the IFC Executive Board that has oversight of their position in their member organization

#### E. A student may not concurrently hold the position on the IFC Executive Board that is the same position as their member organization, up to the discretion of the current IFC Executive Board

#### **E**. No member organization may have more than one member elected to the Executive Board.

#### **F.** Associate Members are not able to hold the position of President

#### **G**. Colony Members may not hold an executive position on the IFC Executive Board.

### **Section 4.05** Elections for the Executive Board shall be held no later than the meeting prior to Spring Break, as per the University of Pittsburgh academic calendar, with applications being opened at the earliest 2 GBMs prior. The procedure for Elections is outlined in the IFC Bylaws.

### **Section 4.06** The Executive Board shall approve all budget expenditures from University accounts, under supervision of the President, Treasurer, and Advisor from the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

### **Section 4.07** Once per year, the Executive Board must initiate a review and, if necessary, amend the Bylaws by which it operates through the IFC Judicial Board.

## ARTICLE V: MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Section 5.01** Each fraternity will be officially represented by its President and a representative chosen by the member organization. The name of the official representative shall be reported to the Secretary.

#### **A**. The President shall cast the singular vote for their chapter on all matters of the Council; in their absence, the official representative will cast the chapter’s vote.

#### **B.** Attendance of the President and the official representative is mandatory at all regular and special meetings of IFC; missing an excess of two IFC meetings in a semester shall incur fines and/or sanctions for the chapter, to be determined by the Judicial Board.

### **Section 5.02** All IFC members shall financially support IFC through payment of dues each semester.

#### **A**. These dues shall be no less than twelve dollars ($12.00) for each brother of Voting and Associate Member Chapters.

#### **B.** Dues for Colony Members should be no more than eight dollars ($8.00) for each brother.

#### **C.** The IFC shall set dues each semester to be paid for each brother, not to exceed an increase of two dollars ($2.00) from the amount established in the previous semester.

#### **D**. A due date for dues payments shall be established each semester by the Treasurer; failure to pay by the established date shall result in the suspension of the fraternity and a fine of twenty-five dollars ($25.00) per business day until the dues have been paid in full.

## ARTICLE VI ADVISOR

### **Section 6.01** The advisor to the Interfraternity Council shall be the Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life, whereas the duties of the Advisor shall be but not limited to:

#### **A.** Ensuring that IFC acts in compliance with its Constitution, Bylaws, and with University regulations,

#### **B.** Providing assistance and support for IFC in realizing the goals of the organization

#### **C.** Assisting the Executive Board in carrying out its functions as outlined in the IFC Bylaws

## ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

### **Section 7.01** The Executive Board shall govern Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees; and appoint chairman of such committees by a majority vote of Executive Board members.

### **Section 7.02** The Judicial Board is a Standing Committee and shall be chaired by the Chief Justice and operate in accordance with the Judicial Board Bylaws in order to:

#### **A.** Adjudicate alleged violations of the IFC Constitution, Bylaws, and all applicable policies set forth by the University of Pittsburgh and IFC.

#### **B**. Communicate policy and procedure developments to risk managers and presidents of member chapters.

#### **C**. If necessary, suggest changes to all IFC governing documents

### **Section 7.03** The Expansion Committee is a Standing Committee and shall be chaired by the President and operate in accordance with the Expansion and Colonization Policy in order to:

#### **A.** Ensure the advancement of IFC by inviting (inter)national men’s social fraternities to join the University of Pittsburgh fraternity community

#### **B.** Monitor the development and success of expansions and make recommendations on proceeding with expansion

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### **Section 7.05** The Recruitment Committee is an Ad Hoc Committee and shall be chaired by the Recruitment Chair or a member appointed by the Recruitment Chair to:

#### **A**. Oversee the planning and execution of Recruitment programming

#### **B.** Communicate with the Executive Board about relevant budget expenditures

#### **C.** Ensure all member organizations operate within the recruitment boundaries as defined by the Recruitment Handbook

### **Section 7.06** The Programming Committee is an Ad Hoc Committee and shall be chaired by the Programing Chair or a member appointed by the Programming Chair to:

#### **A**. Oversee the planning and execution of intramurals, Healthy Masculinities Week, IFC Day of Service, and any program events or programs established by IFC

#### **B.** Communicate with the Executive Board about relevant budget expenditures

### **Section 7.07** The Communications Committee is an Ad Hoc Committee and shall be chaired by the Communications Chair or a member appointed by the Communications Chair to:

#### **A**. Operate and update all social media pages of the IFC, including the IFC website

#### **B.** Provide necessary information to member organizations regarding IFC events, philanthropy events, and any updates deemed necessary for the Greek community.

#### **C.** Govern the social media pages of all member organizations and ensure posts and interactions are appropriate in accordance with guidelines set by the Judicial Board

### **Section 7.08** Establishment of a Standing Committee is subject to the discretion of IFC.

### **Section 7.09** Procedures for the establishment and administration of Ad Hoc committees shall be outlined in the IFC Bylaws.

## ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

### **Section 8.01** Regular General Body meetings shall be held at least twice a month during the Fall and Spring terms, at a time and date to be decided by the Executive Board in conjunction with the Advisor.

### **Section 8.02** Special meetings may be called given a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours advanced notice to all members of IFC.

#### **A**. May be called jointly by the President and any Executive Board member, as required.

#### **B**. May be called upon written request signed by two-thirds of member fraternities of the Council.

### **Section 8.03** Business of the Council shall be conducted at meetings in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order, in its most recently revised edition, at the discretion of the Executive Board.

### **Section 8.04** Quorum for regular and special meetings of IFC shall be a simple majority of member fraternities, with quorum being required to conduct any official business.

## ARTICLE IX: DISMISSAL AND VACANCY

### **Section 9.01** Grounds for removal from the Executive Board are justified by failure to uphold the Constitution, failure to abide by the Bylaws, and/or failure to follow the University of Pittsburgh’s Code of Conduct and Pitt Promise.

#### **A.** A motion for dismissal must be made at a regular IFC meeting by an Executive Board member or Chapter President and must be passed by a majority of Voting Members present.

#### **B**. A committee shall be appointed by the Advisor, which shall investigate and make recommendations on the proposed dismissal at a special meeting one week following the original motion for dismissal.

#### **C.** Dismissal requires a three-fourths vote of Voting Members.

### **Section 9.02** The resignation of an Executive Board member shall be recognized upon the receipt of a signed and dated letter of resignation submitted to the Executive Board.

### **Section 9.03** Vacancies on the Executive Board shall be filled by appointment by the President, subject to the majority approval of IFC.

#### **A**. Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice President shall complete the unexpired term of President and appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of Vice President, subject to the majority approval of IFC.

#### **B.** Should the Vice President position be vacant at the time of Presidential vacancy, or should they recuse themselves from assuming the Presidency, the order of succession identified in Article IV, Section 4.03 shall determine the next president.

## ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSION

### **Section 10.01** Any Voting Member of the IFC may submit proposed amendments to the Constitution by submitting a letter to the Executive Board outlining the proposed changes forty-eight hours in advance of the meeting at which the proposed changes are to be presented.

#### **A**. Proposed amendments will be tabled until the following meeting.

#### **B**. At the following meeting, Voting Members will cast votes on the proposed amendments; a two-thirds vote in favor of the changes is required to pass any amendment.

### **Section 10.02** Any officer of the Executive Board may move for a suspension of the Constitution for the purposes of reorganization when no constitutional remedy can be found.

#### **A.** Suspension must be approved by a minimum of all Executive Board members minus one.

#### **B**. Officers of the Executive Board will maintain their positions to lead any necessary reorganization

## ARTICLE XI POLICY AND RESOLUTION

### **Section 11.01** Any Policy or Resolution issued by IFC is subject to the same scrutiny and adoption procedure as the Constitution.

## ARTICLE XII: SUPREMACY

### **Section 12.01** IFC, its member fraternities, and their individual members are responsible to uphold the Student Code of Conduct in addition to all policies set forth by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and the University of Pittsburgh.

### **Section 12.02** Anti-Hazing Policy: All current and prospective members must affirm and comply with the University of Pittsburgh Anti-Hazing Policy: Hazing at the University of Pittsburgh is considered a violation of the University’s Anti-Hazing Policy and Student Code of Conduct and Judicial procedures and is absolutely prohibited. Hazing may also be considered a criminal act in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Hazing: For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. Therefore, any Student who causes or participates in hazing may be subject to appropriate University discipline and/or may be subject to criminal prosecution.

### Hazing​ Definition: A person commits hazing if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, **causes, coerces or forces** a minor or student to do any of the following:​

* **Violate Federal or State criminal law;**​
* Consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the minor or student to a risk of emotional or physical harm;​
* Endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, branding, calisthenics or exposure to the elements;​
* Endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the **mental health or dignity of the individual**, sleep deprivation, **exclusion from social contact** or **conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment;**​
* Endure brutality of a sexual nature;​
* Endure any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the minor or student.​

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### **Section 12.03** Equal Opportunity: All current and prospective members must ensure an equal opportunity to all persons for admission to membership in each fraternity in compliance with all Federal and State laws and regulations in accordance with the University of Pittsburgh Affirmative Action Plan.

### **Section 12.04** All actions of the IFC shall be in accordance with the University of Pittsburgh’s Student Code of Conduct. Subsequent to this, all actions shall be governed, in order of precedence, by the Constitution of the Interfraternity Council, the Bylaws of the Executive Board, and Robert’s Rules of Order in its most recently revised edition.

### **Section 12.05** Should conflict arise between two documents, the one with greater precedence shall be considered authority and followed as law

### **Section 12.06** Non-Discrimination Clause: No illegal discriminatory criteria may be used as criteria for membership including those listed in the University of Pittsburgh’s non-discrimination policy.  These factors include race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran.  All groups, except those exempt by law, must permit male and female membership.  Sport clubs involving physical contact or in which participation is based on competitive skill may limit participation in competition to one sex; provided that, for any for any such sport club engaged in a non-contact sport, unless there is a sport club available for members of the opposite sex, the club must permit try-outs for each sex. Membership can be limited by factors unrelated to status or beliefs and which are also not illegal. Membership can be limited by school, college, department, major and grades, etc. No hazing or illegal discrimination will be used as a condition of membership in the organization.

* The Title IX office of the University of Pittsburgh grants social fraternities the ability to determine membership of a potential new member based on gender, and as a University of Pittsburgh CCLD department organization, the Interfraternity Council is granted exemption from the guidelines that disallow membership criteria on the basis of gender.