

# **Constitution of the Rutgers Interfraternity Council Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

## **Preamble**

We, the fraternities of Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey, acknowledging that we are bound together by our ideals, a cornerstone of which is a belief in brotherhood, and realizing that our common goals will be better attained through a cooperative rather than solitary effort, do hereby establish this constitution and pledge to further the interests of our University and community, foster an atmosphere of cooperation among all fraternal organizations on campus, promote the mutual interests of our member chapters, and aid in the social, cultural, intellectual, and moral development of all fraternity men.

## **Article I**

### **Section 1     Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Rutgers Interfraternity Council, hereinafter referred to within the body of this document as the IFC.

## **Article II Purpose**

The purpose of the IFC shall be the pursuit of the following objectives:

1. To cultivate and maintain the high ideals of each individual member chapter as well as the educational mission of Rutgers University;
2. To further cooperation among the recognized fraternal organizations of Rutgers University;
3. To establish cooperation and mutual understanding between the Greek community, the Rutgers Community, and beyond;
4. To engage in service and philanthropic activities, which serve the community and university;
5. To foster the process of educating members of the Greek community with respect to the standards set for the fraternities of Rutgers University.

## **Article III Code of Ethics**

As members of fraternities, we recognize and accept that the primary mission of Rutgers University is to provide excellence in undergraduate education. We accept the role of fraternities in supporting this mission.

While respecting the particular goals and values of our individual chapters, we contribute to the Rutgers University mission by providing our members with distinct opportunities to enhance scholarship, character, leadership, service and friendship for life.

Because of this commitment, we adhere to the following North-American Interfraternity Conference Statement of Fraternity Values and Ethics:

1. We will know and understand the ideals expressed in our fraternity ritual and will strive to incorporate them in our daily lives.

2. We will strive for academic achievement and practice academic integrity.
3. We will respect the dignity of all persons; therefore we will not physically, mentally, psychology or sexually abuse or haze any human being.
4. We will protect the health and safety of all human beings.
5. We will respect our property and the property of others; therefore, we will neither abuse nor tolerate the abuse of property.
6. We will meet our financial obligations in a timely manner.
7. We will neither use nor support the use of illegal drugs; we will neither misuse nor support the misuse of alcohol.
8. We acknowledge that a clean and attractive environment is essential to both physical and mental health; therefore, we will do all in our power to see that our chapter properties are properly cleaned and maintained.
9. We will challenge all our fraternity members to abide by these fraternal expectations and will confront those who violate them.

#### **ARTICLE IV Human Dignity**

The furtherance of fraternal values and maintenance of the dignity of fraternity men are constant goals of the North-American Interfraternity Conference, its member groups, and IFC. The concepts of enhancing human dignity and fostering personal development provide a foundation for fraternity ideals and ritual.

The IFC serves a vital role in educating fraternity men about issues confronting the Greek community. Racism and sexism are directly counter to the ideals of the Greek community and cannot be permitted. The IFC further disapproves of all forms of hazing, alcohol and substance abuse, and activities that are sexually explicit, demeaning, or degrading to women and/or men.

The IFC will exert its influence concerning complaints that are brought to its attention dealing with the nature of interfraternal and/or member chapter activities. The IFC will carefully analyze interfraternal and/or chapter activities in light of human dignity considerations and endeavor to accomplish any changes needed to ensure the compatibility of the activities with fraternal values and the highest standards of human dignity.

#### **Article V Membership**

The IFC shall welcome all men's fraternities of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey provided those organizations achieve and maintain their University recognition as well as their financial obligations to the University and the IFC.

Any fraternity wishing to apply for membership must have first complied with all of the terms outlined in the document entitled, "Rutgers University Registration Policy".

Any fraternity wishing to apply for membership must present its mission and purpose to the Presidents' Council.

IFC member fraternity chapters will hereinafter be referred to within the body of this document as Member Chapters.

## **Section I     Privileges of Membership**

Member Chapters shall:

1. Have all privileges and rights under this Constitution and Bylaws except as limited by the actions of the Executive Council, Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs (OFSA), and/or Rutgers University; and
2. Hold one vote at Presidents Council; and
3. Receive equal representation with other Member Chapters in IFC and OFSA publications that list or describe member fraternities.
4. Participate in IFC-sponsored activities, programs, and/or events; and
5. Participate in IFC Recruitment activities, programs, and/or events; and
6. Participate in social functions with Panhellenic Association, Pan-Hellenic Council, and/or Interfraternity Council Members; and
7. Conduct Associate and/or New Member programs as regulated by IFC, OFSA, and/or Rutgers University; and
8. Participate in philanthropy and community service activities, programs, and/or events as regulated by IFC, OFSA, and/or Rutgers University; and
9. Participate in the Fraternity Division of Intramural Sports as regulated by the Office of Recreational Sports, IFC, OFSA, and/or Rutgers University; and
10. Have its members, as they are eligible, hold elective and appointive offices and positions of the IFC; and
11. Have access to IFC resources and services; and
12. Have access to OFSA and/or Rutgers University resources, services, and facilities as outlined in the OFSA President's Manual; and
13. Be eligible for awards and recognition sponsored by IFC, OFSA, and/or Rutgers University.

## **Section II     Duties of Membership**

Member Chapters must:

1. Abide by regulations, policies, decisions, and actions of Rutgers University; and
2. Abide by regulations, policies, decisions, and actions of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs; and
3. Abide by regulations, policies, decisions, and actions of the Presidents Council; and
4. Abide by policies, decisions, and actions of Executive Council;
5. Abide by this Constitution and Bylaws; and
6. Abide by Office of Recreational Sports, IFC, OFSA, and/or Rutgers University regulations, policies, and decisions regarding participation in Intramural Sports; and
7. Have attendance of at least its President, or another Member from his Fraternity, at every Presidents Council meeting for the duration of the meeting; and
8. Participate in mandatory IFC activities, programs, and/or events, as determined by Executive Council, OFSA, and/or Rutgers University; and
9. Abide by IFC Recruitment regulations, policies, decisions, and actions; and
10. Pay dues and fees required by IFC, OFSA, and/or Rutgers University; and
11. Maintain a chapter GPA of 2.50 each semester (summer excluded); and
12. Encourage scholarship, service, and leadership among its Members; and
13. Maintain good standing status with their inter/national fraternity; and
14. Maintain an updated Chapter file in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, including, but not limited to, the following:
  1. List of Members and RUID numbers; and
  2. List of Officers and Chairpersons and contact information; and
  3. List of Advisors and Corporation Board Members and contact information; and

4. List of Associates or New Members and RU ID numbers; and
5. Chapter and individual Grade Release Forms; and
6. Other Fraternity and Member information as required;

## **Article VI Good Standing**

A Member Chapter that satisfies the Requirements and Duties of Membership is in Good Standing with the IFC, OFSA and/or Rutgers University

## **Article VII Bad Standing**

A Member Chapter that is found responsible for violating any Requirements and/or Duties of Membership is in Bad Standing with the IFC, OFSA and/or Rutgers University.

Member Chapters will not be permitted to stay on Bad Standing for an indefinite amount of time. The Executive Council is directed to take appropriate steps to assist Member Chapters to return to Good Standing.

### **Section I     Procedures**

1. If a Member Chapter is in bad standing, an announcement of that status will be made at the earliest IFC meeting following the placement of the chapter on the bad standing list.
2. If a Member Chapter remains in Bad Standing for four weeks, that chapter will be referred to the Executive Board

### **Section II     Consequences**

The Executive Council, in consultation with the IFC Advisor, is authorized to impose one and/or all of the following sanctions for Chapters that are placed on Bad Standing:

1. Loss of voting privileges
2. Loss of intramural privileges
3. Loss of IFC leadership positions
4. Suspension of chapter activities
5. Loss of IFC recognition

## **Article VIII Structure**

### **Section I     Presidents Council**

The legislative responsibilities and authority of the IFC shall rest with the Presidents Council as described by the By-Laws.

### **Section II     Executive Council**

The administrative and programming responsibilities and authority of the IFC shall rest with the Executive Council and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.

### **Section III    Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be chaired by the Vice President of Programming and shall oversee the activities and operations of Cabinet members

## **Article IX Finances**

The Executive Council shall set the dues that members owe IFC and shall announce the amount of dues at the beginning of each semester by written notification.

The Vice President of Administration shall assess dues on every member on a per capita basis. The assessment of dues shall be determined by the most updated list of Members, Associates, and New Members as recorded at the beginning of each semester or at the date of billing by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.

The Vice President of Administration and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs shall determine the deadline for payment and penalties for nonpayment of accounts receivable in accordance with their administrative authority and duties.

The Vice President of Administration shall fine a member that fails to pay its dues on time. The fine shall be 10% of the outstanding balance.

10% of the annual Member Chapter dues will be deposited in an IFC reserve account with the stipulation that expenditures from this fund must be approved by a majority of the Presidents Council present and voting.

The Vice President of Administration shall prepare and present to the Presidents Council a budget for the following semester at the second to last meeting of each semester. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present shall be necessary to ratify the proposed budget. Furthermore, an expense account shall be presented to the Presidents Council at the beginning of each semester.

## **Article X Amendments**

### **Section I Constitution Review**

The IFC President shall review this Constitution at least once each year with the Executive Council, Presidents Council and Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.

### **Section II Revisions**

1. A constitution revision committee will be appointed by the IFC President every other year to review the constitution and suggest appropriate revisions for the Presidents Council's consideration.
2. Member Chapters, in good standing, are free to introduce revisions for the Presidents Council's consideration.

### **Section III Amendments**

1. Proposed amendments must be presented in writing, with rationale supporting the amendment, to the Executive Council 48 hours prior to the Presidents Council Meeting.
2. The IFC President will read the proposed amendment during his report and provide a written copy of the amendment to each member chapter.
3. Discussion of the proposed amendment will take place during the New Business portion of the meeting that the amendment was proposed.
4. The proposed amendment will be tabled for at least one week and can be considered again at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Presidents Council.

5. An amendment vote must follow proper parliamentary procedure as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order.
6. All amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws are subject to the approval of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.

### **Article XI Ratification**

An amendment that receives an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Member Chapters present and in good standing shall be ratified.

**Revised 9/2013**

