

Florida Gulf Coast University Interfraternity Council

Constitution

ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose

Section 1 - Name

This organization shall be named the Florida Gulf Coast University Interfraternity Council. The Interfraternity Council, a registered student organization of Florida Gulf Coast University, sponsored by the Office of Campus Involvement and Office of Greek Life, shall be referred to as the IFC.

Section 2 - Purpose

The Interfraternity Council is the advisory, supervisory, and governing body of all the NIC and other national governing council member fraternities at Florida Gulf Coast University. It shall strive for positive public relations between the individual fraternities, the Greek community, and the University. It shall promote scholarship among its members and uphold the standards and regulations of Florida Gulf Coast University. It shall promote the interests of its members and the University.

ARTICLE II: Membership, Recognition, and Composition

Section 1 - Organizational Membership

Membership in the IFC shall be restricted to all undergraduate nationally chartered and colonized social fraternities, as recognized by the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), Fraternity Leadership Association (FLA), or other national umbrella organizations.

- A. Membership shall fall under two categories, full membership and provisional membership.
 - a. Full Membership constitutes full recognition by the organization's national office and the IFC in accordance with the policies and procedures of the IFC, Greek Life Expansion Committee, and Florida Gulf Coast University.
 - b. Provisional Membership shall be offered to organizational colonies that have met the requirements of the Greek Life Expansion Committee and the Expansion procedures outlined in the IFC Bylaws.

Section 2 - Recognition

To be eligible for membership, an organization must have met all requirements of a registered student organization at Florida Gulf Coast University, receive a recommendation from the Greek Life Expansion Committee, and fulfill all requirements outlined in the IFC Constitution and Bylaws. Upon meeting all requirements, new membership shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Interfraternity Council; members cannot resign without the penalty of losing its recognition by Florida Gulf Coast University.

Section 3 - Individual Membership in Member Chapters

- A. Participation in membership recruitment activities shall be open to all full-time undergraduate men in good academic standing with Florida Gulf Coast University, and who have maintained a 2.5 cumulative grade point average. First semester freshmen are allowed to affiliate with an IFC member chapter; however, they must have maintained a 2.5 cumulative high school grade point average. Transfer students who wish to affiliate must have achieved and maintained a 2.5 cumulative grade point average from their prior institution.
- B. Probationary membership in the member chapters of the Interfraternity Council shall be open to all undergraduate men in good standing who have been extended invitations to join by member chapters; however:
 - 1) Probationary membership shall be limited to one calendar year.

- 2) Probationary membership may be removed from their chapter at the discretion of the chapter.
- 3) Probationary members must be registered as full-time undergraduate University Students.
- C. Full membership in the member chapters of the Interfraternity Council shall be open to these probationary members who:
 - 1) Fulfill the standards and requirements of the chapter to which the probationary member belongs,
 - 2) Achieve a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. If a member chapter has a scholarship requirement in excess of the minimum standard, then the higher standard shall apply.
 - 3) Are registered as full-time undergraduate students.

Section 4 - Standards of Conduct

- A. All member chapters, colonies, and individual members of chapters and colonies shall conduct themselves in accordance with the standards of conduct set forth by the members' (inter)national organizations, and shall adhere to the NIC Statement of Fraternal Values and Ethics.
- B. All member chapters, colonies, and individual members of chapters and colonies shall conduct themselves in accordance with the IFC Constitution, and rules and regulations contained in the Student Code of Conduct of Florida Gulf Coast University.
- C. Failure to comply with these standards may result in judicial charges being filed against the chapter, colony, and/or individual member(s) by a representative in the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Section 5 - Composition

The Interfraternity Council shall be composed of:

- A. Executive Board
 - 1) The officers of the Florida Gulf Coast University Interfraternity Council shall be President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer.
 - 2) The officers shall be delegates from fraternities holding regular membership in the Florida Gulf Coast University Interfraternity Council. Executive Board officers must have and maintain a 2.75 cumulative grade point average throughout his tenure in office.
 - 3) The officers shall serve for a term of one year, commencing in the beginning of the spring semester and terminating at the end of the fall semester.
 - 4) Any officer failing to perform his duties as outlined in the IFC constitution and bylaws shall be asked to resign and a successor shall be designated by election.
- B. Legislative Council
 - 1) This body shall have vested in it the power to make laws concerning the governance of the fraternity system at Florida Gulf Coast University.
- C. Standing Committees and Representatives
 - 1) Such standing committees and special officers as may be necessary to carry out the work of the Florida Gulf Coast University IFC shall be appointed by its Executive Board to serve during the tenure in office of the Board which appoints them.
 - 2) Committees, committee members, representatives, their duties, and the selection procedure will be as designated and stated in the Florida Gulf Coast University IFC Bylaws.

ARTICLE III: Meetings and Voting Privileges

Section 1 - Meetings

- A. Meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis whenever possible. There shall be no less than one meeting held each month during the academic year (fall and spring semesters), except with prior approval of the IFC Executive Board.
- B. The next meeting of regular business of IFC will be announced at each meeting as to time and place.
- C. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- D. All Interfraternity Council meetings shall be open to all initiated and probationary members. The rights to the floor shall be reserved for official chapter representatives, committees, conference chairmen, invited guests, and those given rights by the president.

E. All business will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

Section 2 - Quorum

Quorum shall be established by a simple majority of the representatives being present at the time of roll call. Once quorum has been established, it shall hold throughout the entire meeting.

Section 3 - Voting

- 1) Executive Board Members cannot vote, nor can they vote in place of their chapter delegate on the legislative council.
- 2) The president or representative (designated by the president) from each member chapter shall have one vote. The President of the Interfraternity Council shall vote only in case of a tie.
- 3) Provisional Membership Representatives will have one vote.

ARTICLE IV: Advisor

The advisor of the Interfraternity Council shall be an employee of the Office of Greek Life at Florida Gulf Coast University.

ARTICLE V: Amendments

- A. A proposed amendment to this constitution must be presented with references to the proper sections and articles at the regular business meeting. They must be proposed verbally and in writing.
- B. Voting will take place during the following business meeting.
- C. Any amendment to the constitution of the Interfraternity Council will take effect immediately upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members present to ratify.
- D. The Office of Greek Life must approve the amendment to the constitution after the ratification by the Interfraternity Council in order for the amendment to become official.

ARTICLE VI: Dissolution

The Interfraternity Council may be dissolved at the request of the Office of Greek Life.

Florida Gulf Coast University Interfraternity Council

Bylaws

ARTICLE I: Executive Board

Section 1 - Officers of the Executive Board

A. President

- 1) To preside over all IFC meetings
- 2) To conduct the meetings of the Executive Board
- 3) To call special meetings of the IFC and the Executive Board
- 4) To supervise all activities and operations of the IFC
- 5) To represent the IFC in all dealings with University administration and the general public
- 6) To create and appoint any special committees deemed necessary by the IFC and/or the Executive Board
- 7) To serve as an ex-officio member of all committees
- 8) To assume any duties which the office may require

B. Vice President

- 1) To assist the president
- 2) To preside over all IFC meetings in the absence of the president
- 3) To serve as the NPC and NPHC liaison.
- 4) To coordinate the activities of all committees
- 5) To assume any other duties which the office may require
- 6) To coordinate and oversee all recruitment events sponsored by the Interfraternity Council
- 7) To help coordinate Greek Week activities

C. Secretary/Treasurer

- 1) To submit all official IFC correspondence and to oversee the keeping of the IFC minutes
- 2) To be responsible for the maintenance of all IFC records, including chapter rosters
- 3) To be responsible for interfraternal communication
- 4) To assess and collect dues
- 5) To receive, disburse, and keep accurate accounts of all IFC funds so that he can render an accurate financial report at any time
- 6) To submit to the IFC, at the beginning of each semester, a budget for the following semester to be approved by the IFC
- 7) To assume any other duties which the office may require

Section 2 - Term

The term for the Executive Board officers shall be for one calendar year to commence with the beginning of the spring semester and concluding at the end of the fall semester.

Section 3 - Elections

A. Application and Selection Process

- 1) Candidate applications will be distributed in October at an IFC general meeting and be available in the Office of Greek Life.
- 2) After completing and returning the Executive Board application, the candidates will have grade verification completed by the Interfraternity Council Advisor.
- 3) The election of the Interfraternity Council Executive Board shall take place at either a regular or specially called meeting of the Interfraternity Council in either late November or early December.
- 4) Votes will be cast by secret ballot.

- 5) Each chapter shall be allowed one vote. The IFC President shall vote only in the case of a tie.
 - 6) Simple majority will pass the slate.
- B. Eligible Candidates
- 1) Candidate must have and maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75.
 - 2) Candidate must be registered as a full-time student during the length of their term.
 - 3) Candidate must be an initiated member of a chartered fraternity at FGCU.
- C. The IFC President shall install the officers elect into their respective offices during the first meeting of the spring semester.
- D. President and Vice President may not be from the same chapter; otherwise, there may be no more than two members from a chapter on the Executive Board.
- E. A fraternity president is not eligible to hold an Executive Board position.
- F. If any office is vacated before the last IFC meeting in the spring semester, a new election shall be held. If any office is vacated after the last IFC meeting of the spring semester, the Executive Board shall have the discretion to fill the vacancy, pending a majority approval of the Interfraternity Council Legislative Council. If the position of president is vacated, an election is required; in such case, the Vice President will assume the role of IFC President until said election can be held.
- G. Officers may be removed from an office by a 2/3 vote of the Legislative Council. A motion for removal must be made in writing and tabled for a minimum of one week before a vote can be taken.

Section 4 - Executive Board Duties

- A. The Board shall have the power to act in the absence of a convened delegation of the IFC Legislative Council.
- B. Acting with the power of the IFC, it will exercise the privilege of that power so as to uphold the standards and regulations of Florida Gulf Coast University.
- C. Two or more unexcused absences of any Executive Board Member will result in the Executive Board's review of the position. At its discretion, the Executive Board will recommend to the legislative council that member be removed from office.
- D. A simple majority vote of the legislative council will pass the removal.

ARTICLE II: Legislative Council and Chapter Responsibilities

Section 1 - Function

This body shall have vested in it the power to make laws concerning the governance of the fraternity system at the Florida Gulf Coast University.

- A. Representation
- 1) One member of each active chapter or colony shall represent their organization in the Council. This person shall be the president of that chapter, who will act as the correspondent between his chapter and the IFC. In the event of absence or conflict, the president of each chapter will be responsible for providing a chapter delegate.
 - 2) The Interfraternity Council representative must have a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative average upon accepting his office and must be a full-time student in accordance with University regulations.
 - 3) Each fraternity shall elect or appoint its representative for a term of no less than one semester.
 - 4) Failure to attend the meetings will result in a \$25 fine that will be placed on the chapter account.
- B. Meetings
- 1) Meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis whenever possible. There shall be no less than one meeting held each month during the school year, except with prior approval of the IFC Executive Board.
 - 2) The next meeting of regular business of IFC will be announced at each meeting as to time and place.
 - 3) Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Executive Board.

- 4) All Interfraternity Council meetings shall be open to all active brothers and probationary members of recognized fraternities. The rights to the floor shall be reserved for official chapter representatives, committees, conference chairmen, invited guests, and those given rights by the president.
- 5) All business will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.
- 6) Quorum shall be established by a simple majority of the representatives being present at the time of roll call. Once quorum has been established, it shall hold throughout the whole meeting.

Section 2 - Voting

The president or representative (designated by the president) from each member chapter shall have one vote. The president of the Council shall vote only in case of a tie.

Section 3 - Rosters and Other Required Organizational Documents

- A. Membership Rosters are due at the end of each recruitment period, and bills will be sent out within one week of said date.
- B. Any chapter that has not submitted a membership roster or other required organizational documents by said date shall be excluded from all Greek activities (i.e. all activities in which fraternities participate as a member of the Greek community or in a Greek division).
- C. No social events can be conducted until the membership rosters or other required organizational documents have been submitted.

ARTICLE III: Committees and Committee Coordinators

Section 1 - Committee Composition

The Interfraternity Council Executive Board shall, at its discretion, appoint committee coordinators to assist in the daily operation of the Interfraternity Council.

Section 2 - Selection and Removal

- A. After an application and interview process, committee coordinators and organizational representatives shall be appointed by the IFC president, subject to majority approval by the IFC Executive Board.
- B. Committee coordinators may be removed by the recommendation of the Vice President, but subject to the majority vote by the Executive Board or the Legislative Council.
- C. Committees may become permanent, standing committees of the Interfraternity Council with a recommendation by the Executive Board and a majority vote of the legislative council.

Section 3 - Meetings

- A. The Vice President shall hold a general meeting of all committee coordinators at least once per month.
- B. The committee coordinators have no legislative authority or voting rights in the Legislative Council.

Section 4 - Duties of Committee Coordinators

Committee Coordinators shall have whatever duties as may be assigned by the Vice President of the Interfraternity Council, in conjunction with approval of the IFC Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV: Finance

Section 1 - Budget/Dues

- A. Budget
 - 1) The treasurer shall develop an annual budget for the operation of the IFC in conjunction with the Interfraternity Council Advisor.
 - 2) The budget shall recommend IFC dues and fees for the coming academic year.
 - 3) The budget shall be presented with a motion to its adoption.

- 4) Upon adoption, amendments or major changes must be approved by the Legislative Council.
- B. Dues
- 1) Each chapter is to be assessed \$10 per initiated and probationary member each semester.
 - 2) Dues must be submitted within one week of billing and shall be based upon the number of initiated and probationary members on the roster at the due date.
- C. Fines
- 1) Failure to attend the regular meetings of the IFC will result in the fine of \$25 unless a valid excuse for absence is presented within a seven-day period to the Executive Board. Waived fines are at the discretion of the Executive Board.
 - 2) In the event of dues being outstanding for two or more weeks, a fine will be levied on the chapter that will be equal to ten percent (10%) of their semester dues bill.
 - a) A chapter will lose their voting privileges if they are delinquent on their semester dues for four or more weeks.
 - 3) Other Fines
 - a) As shall be provided in relation to general business, fines may be levied against member fraternities and shall be in addition to the dues of the organization.
 - b) The fines can only be levied by a majority vote of the Executive Board and are subject to approval by Interfraternity Council Advisor.
- D. Delinquency
- 1) Dues, fines, or other financial debts not cleared by the end of a semester can result in the loss of benefits such as, but not limited to, social events and intramural activity. Should it become necessary for delinquency to become a judicial issue, cases will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

ARTICLE V: EXPANSION

Section 1 - Purpose

- A. The purpose of the Interfraternity Council expansion Policy shall be:
- 1) To provide guidance and support for new fraternities.
 - 2) To provide a colony membership period before granting full privileges of the Interfraternity Council.
 - 3) To provide guidance and support to fraternities who have lost membership to the Interfraternity Council for less than one year.
 - 4) To provide members to sit on the Greek Life Expansion Committee.

Section 2 - Greek Life Expansion Committee

The Interfraternity Council will be responsible to provide one delegate from each member chapter to serve on the Greek Life Expansion Committee, or GLEC. The duties of this committee shall be to study the applications and presentations of any and all groups seeking Provisional Member status at Florida Gulf Coast University. The Fraternity delegates shall have voting privileges in committee meetings. This committee shall meet and review on an as needed basis. For more information, refer to the Greek Life Expansion Committee Bylaws.

Section 3 - Expansion Eligibility

All undergraduate general fraternities, as recognized by the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), Fraternity Leadership Association (FLA), or other national organization shall be eligible for membership in the Interfraternity Council, regardless of race or religion.

Section 4 - Limitations

Expansion shall be limited to the discretion of the Greek Life Expansion Committee for the best interest of the existing fraternal community, Greek community, and the university.

Section 5 - Procedures

The expansion procedures for fraternities are as follows:

- A. The IFC will vote to make a recommendation to the GLEC to open expansion within IFC.
- B. IFC will submit a list of suggested organizations to the GLEC, in addition to the organizations that have previously contacted the office of Greek Life to express interest in expansion.
- C. The GLEC will undertake the interview and final recommendation processes.
- D. Upon approval by the Vice-President Student Affairs office, the final vote of approval of the selected organization will be presented to the IFC.
- E. A simple majority vote of the legislative council will approve the proposed organization for expansion at Florida Gulf Coast University and colonization may begin.

Section 6 - Initial Violations

- A. Whereas, initiating a founding pledge class without following the expansion procedures set by the Interfraternity Council will result in denial of membership into the Interfraternity Council on Florida Gulf Coast University's campus for 5 years.
- B. Whereas, if an organization that wishes to join the Interfraternity Council from this date on manages to keep their founding pledge class covert, and that organization is accepted into the Interfraternity Council without the council's knowledge of such activity, they will be prohibited from participating in Interfraternity Council events for 3 years once that information is brought to light, effective immediately.
- C. Whereas, no exceptions are to be made.

ARTICLE VI: Hazing

Section 1 - Definition

Hazing is defined as an action or situation created on or off campus which recklessly or intentionally harms, damages or endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating within Florida Gulf Coast University. Such term includes, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, alcohol, drug, or other substance, or other forced activity which would adversely affect the physical or mental health or safety of the student, and also includes any activity which would subject the student to mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which would result in extreme embarrassment, or forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student, or any other activity which is inconsistent with the regulations and policies of Florida Gulf Coast University.

Section 2 - Policy

The aforementioned practices shall be termed hazing by the Interfraternity Council and will not be tolerated.

Section 3 - Violations

A violation of this article shall be immediately reported to the IFC president, the Assistant Director of Greek Life, and/or Assistant Director of Judicial Affairs who shall then refer the matter to the Director of Judicial Affairs' Office. Said office will then undertake the investigation. If a violation is found to exist, punishment of all involved will be governed by the procedure outline in the aforementioned disciplinary policies.

Article VII: Amendments

Section 1 - Policies and Procedures

- A. Amendments to the Interfraternity Council Bylaws must be proposed in writing.
- B. Before presentation to the IFC, all amendments must be approved by the IFC Executive Board and the IFC Advisor, in conjunction with the office of Greek Life.

- C. Amendments to the bylaws can be made at any time with a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the legislative body.
- D. All approved amendments will be considered effective immediately, unless otherwise defined in the amendment.