**Preamble**

We, the members of the Interfraternity Council of the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, do hereby declare the constitution and by-laws to be the last and final law of the Interfraternity Council, dedicated to the establishment of higher standards of character, unity and scholastic achievement. All fraternal organizations, swear to uphold the constitution to ensure a better Greek community by promoting values and a better future for all students.

The Interfraternity Council does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, national or ethnic origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.

**Article 1: Name**

1.1 This organization shall be known as the Interfraternity Council and shall hereafter be known as the IFC.

**Article 2: Purpose**

2.1 It shall be the purpose of the IFC to:

2.1.1 Promote harmonious relations among fraternities.

2.1.2 Provide and act as the representative central government of the men's fraternities.

2.1.3 Promote and support the charitable programs of each fraternity chapter.

2.1.4 Standardize, control, and regulate the recruitment and new member education activities of the men's fraternities.

2.1.5 Act as the judicial body for fraternity violations, IFC rules, and/or other violations that impair the Fraternity Community.

2.1.6 Work to promote fraternal expansion.

2.1.7 Enforce that fraternities maintain accreditation through the Fraternal Excellence Initiative.
2.1.8 Be a resource for all fraternal endeavors to promote growth for fraternities and the community

2.1.9 Communicate and advocate the values fraternities were founded on; acting as a resource for organizations to reach individual goals.

2.1.10 Facilitate and be able to adapt in order to help promote personal, interpersonal, and organizational integrity

Article 3: Membership

3.1 The requirements of membership to the IFC shall be:

3.1.1 University recognition

3.1.2 Current paid dues to the IFC.

3.1.3 A faculty advisor.

3.1.4 A current and properly ratified constitution.

3.1.5 They shall have openness to full membership and participation toward all members of SUNY Plattsburgh without regard toward race, religion, national origin, handicap, age, and/or sexual orientation.

3.1.6 Must be an accredited chapter through the Fraternal Excellence Initiative by the beginning of the academic year.

3.1.7 Potential New Members (PNMs) will be eligible to join accredited Chapters if they have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5; all local, regional and national fraternities must comply with this membership requirement to remain in good standing and be recognized by the college.

3.1.8 Fraternal organizations that fail to comply with the aforementioned requirement will be recommended for suspension to the college.

3.2 Each fraternity shall be represented by one primary representative; additional representatives may sit in on IFC meetings at the discretion of the primary representative and/or upon the request of the IFC executive council.

3.3 Primary IFC representatives must be appointed for one-year terms. It is required that these representatives remain as representatives for the entire year.

3.3.2 Failure to uphold a yearlong delegate will result in a monetary fine of
$200 towards the accused organization. This includes unreasonable or unjustified changing of primary delegate in the IFC meetings or committee.

3.4 If a primary representative is not deemed up to par by the IFC executive council, he may be asked to replace himself with another member of his organization.

3.5 Each member of the IFC shall be an enrolled student and active member of a recognized fraternity.

**Article 4: Meetings**

4.1 Frequency

4.1.1 There shall be an Executive Council meeting prior to regularly scheduled IFC meetings. Times will be determined at the beginning of each semester.

4.1.2 There will be one IFC meeting held once a week. The executive council of the IFC will determine the time and day of the meeting, by the first week of each semester.

4.2 Quorum

4.2.1 Executive Council
- A quorum is necessary to conduct all business, and shall consist of two thirds (2/3) the executive council.

4.2.2 IFC Representatives Meeting
- A quorum is necessary to conduct all business and shall consist of two thirds (2/3) the voting representatives of the IFC.

4.2 Rules

4.3.1 All IFC meetings will be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

4.4 Voting

4.4.1 Each fraternity will have one (1) vote, made by the primary representative.
4.4.2 In case of a tie, the IFC President shall vote in the negative. The matter will be reviewed and re-voted by the members of the IFC.
4.4.3 The executive council shall not be a voting member of the IFC.

4.5 Attendance

4.5.1 All general and committee meetings shall be mandatory for at least the
primary representatives, but it is recommended that two representatives attend. Failure to provide representation without a valid excuse shall result in sanctions by the IFC.

- The first absence will result in a written warning from the IFC Executive Council.
- The second absence will result in a second warning and a $50.00 fine.
- The third absence of the organization will result in a third warning and a $100.00 fine.
- The fourth absence of the organization will result in an immediate suspension from IFC and all privileges therein for five weeks. Notice of this suspension will be forwarded to the Dean of Students. All absences are counted on a yearly basis.

4.5.2 Valid excuses shall be granted if the president of the IFC is notified at least twenty-four (24 hours) in advance and it is deemed a valid excuse by the executive council.

4.5.3 Note that without proper notification before an IFC meeting any organization tardy by more than ten minutes shall be marked absent from the meeting and will be counted against their attendance in regards to the policy.

4.5 Punctuality

4.6.1 All IFC officers and representatives shall report to meetings on time and be ready for business at the scheduled meeting time.

**Article 5: Representative Requirements**

5.1 One primary representative must be appointed by each organization and be responsible for communicating and expressing detailed information attained from representative meetings.

5.2 Representatives must have a minimum GPA of 2.5

5.3 Representatives must be a full time student at SUNY Plattsburgh at the start of the semester of service to the IFC.

5.4 Each organization is required to send one representative to attend all meetings throughout semester.

5.5 Shall be a member of an existing IFC/ISA Committee. For the committee descriptions please refer to Article 10.
5.6 If essential and necessary under circumstances, more members may attend.

5.7 Representative shall be an outstanding advocate of the values and purpose of their organization.

5.9 Shall be the voice of their organization dealing with concerns acknowledged by chapter and/or valuable information helping the fraternity community.

5.9 If the representative fills a vacant position on the IFC executive council, the chapter has to appoint another representative to fill his place.

**Article 6: Elections**

6.1 Interest Forms for Elections shall be handed in the fall semester; date will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

6.1.1 Eligibility for candidacy shall be extended to any active member from a recognized chapter by the IFC that has a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and is a full time student.

6.1.2 Application shall be delivered by written application via an IFC Interest Form.

6.1.3 Prior to elections the IFC executive board and Director and/or Graduate Assistant of Fraternity/Sorority Life will interview potential candidates and give their recommendations to the IFC representatives in the form of a slate of officers. The Director and/or Graduate Assistant may advise the board, but do not have a vote.

6.1.4 The interview of candidates shall take place at a determined time after the interest form deadline.

6.2 The slate of officers as recommended by the IFC Executive Board shall be presented to the representatives during the next IFC representative meeting immediately after interviews.

6.2.1 The representatives must propose those recommendations for the slate back to their respective chapter at their next chapter meeting and vote to either approve or disapprove the slate.

6.2.2 The representatives must bring back their chapter vote to the next IFC representative meeting.

6.3 Eligible persons may put themselves on the ballot after the slate has been
announced providing the following criteria are met.

6.3.1 The candidate must have participated in the initial interview process.

6.3.2 The candidate must notify the IFC President in writing the Monday before elections of his intent to challenge slated office(s).

6.3.3 The person on the slate that is being challenged must be notified 48 hours before the final vote from the representatives in order to prepare a speech.

6.3.4 In the event that a new candidate fulfills the prior criteria he will need to be present during the IFC representative meeting when the vote will be held to present a speech detailing his vision and goals for the IFC position. The slated candidate will also present a speech. In addition, the executive council will present their rationale for selecting the slated candidate.

6.3.5 A vote will then be taken by secret ballot and that will be the final decision for that position.

6.3.6 If the candidate is not present during the representative meeting where the vote will be taken he will forfeit his candidacy and the voting will proceed without his consideration.

6.4 The vote will take place at the following IFC meeting after the slate has been presented to the representatives.

6.4.1 Voting shall be taken by a secret ballot for the slate of recommended candidates.

6.4.2 Each fraternity shall have one vote issued on their behalf by their appointed representative.

6.4.3 If the slate is not approved by two-thirds of votes it is struck down and each position must then be voted upon individually starting with President.

6.4.4 The candidate with the most votes is elected into the position.

6.5 All elected officers shall serve a term of one year, starting January 1st through December 31st.

6.5.1 Incoming officers will spend a period of fall semester shadowing the current IFC officers. During this period they will organize their own executive meetings, attend IFC representative meetings, and do whatever else is deemed necessary for smooth transitioning.

6.6 The president, subject to the approval of the IFC representatives, shall fill
vacancies.

6.6.1 Should the office of the President become vacant; the Vice President of Standards shall immediately fill the President's term as acting President.

6.6.2 The new President shall be elected out of the current executive body. Assuming he is not elected, the Vice President of Standards will return to his duties after the new President is elected.

6.6.3 The acting President shall hold elections for the vacant Vice President’s position within fourteen (14) days of the vacancy.

6.7 The removal of an executive officer from office.

6.7.1 Any officer can be removed from office for failure to fulfill their responsibilities to the IFC and the chapters IFC governs.

6.7.2 The Fraternal Standards Board will have a hearing to address the issue(s).

6.7.3 In order to remove an officer, a vote among IFC representatives must be taken during an official meeting. Quorum is needed to remove any officer from the IFC. The president will then fill the position temporarily until elections.

Article 7: Executive Council

7.1 Officers of the IFC shall consist of:

7.1.1 President

7.1.2 Vice President of Standards

7.1.3 Up to Six (6) Vice Presidents

Article 8: Officer Duties

8.1 Duties of the President:

8.1.1 Shall have an overall responsibility for the operation of the IFC.

8.1.2 Shall call to order and preside at all regular, executive and special meetings of the IFC.

8.1.3 Shall call to order and preside over all President’s Council meetings (In
collaboration with the Inter-Sorority President).

8.1.4 Shall be the official spokesman and representative of the IFC on administrative committees and events.

8.1.5 Shall appoint a COFA member at large.

8.1.6 Shall appoint any offices left vacant, with the approval of the IFC representatives.

8.1.7 Shall attend the Northeast Greek Leadership Association Conference (NGLA) and the Interfraternity Council Academy, if conferences are deemed necessary to attend by the Interfraternity Council and Director of Fraternity/Sorority Life.

8.1.8 Shall review, approve, and sign all IFC contracts.

8.1.9 Shall see that provisions of the constitution and by-laws are enforced.

8.1.10 Shall make referrals to the Fraternal Standards Board.

8.1.11 Shall assist in implementations of the Fraternal Standards Board sanctions.

8.1.12 Shall not simultaneously serve as the president or standards/judicial chairman of his own fraternity.

8.2 Duties of the Vice President of Standards:

8.2.2 Shall represent the IFC at the Fraternal Referrals & Reviews Committee.

8.2.3 Shall serve as parliamentarian during meetings and coordinate and oversee all issues relating the constitution and by-laws of the IFC.

8.2.4 Shall abide by and exemplify the rules and standards of the Fraternal Standards Board.

8.2.5 Shall maintain and run the meetings of the Fraternal Standards Board.

8.2.6 Shall train Fraternal Standards Board members/representatives.

8.2.7 Shall attend the Northeast Greek Leadership Association Conference (NGLA).

8.2.8 Shall perform the duties of President in the event of his absence.

8.2.9 Shall not simultaneously serve as the president or standards/judicial chairman of his own fraternity.
8.3 **Duties of remaining Vice Presidents:**

8.4.1 The duties of the remaining Vice Presidents shall be determined by the newly slated Interfraternity Council as well as the current executive board. Their roles will be determined based upon the needs of the Interfraternity Council and Fraternity/Sorority Life.

8.4.2 Executive Board will appoint duties of financial matters and secretarial duties to specific Vice Presidents and will notify the chapters of which Vice President to attend to for such matters.

8.4.3 Vice Presidents will be responsible as a liaison for two of the four committees: ISA will oversee the other two and will switch oversight responsibilities on a year to year basis.

- Hazing Prevention
- Service
- Interfraternal Relations
- Diversity

8.4.4 As a liaison the Vice President is in charge of checking in on each committee and monitoring their success as well as relaying the information back to the IFC.

8.4.5 Each Vice President shall be a resource to all Fraternity Men in the areas of:

8.4.5.1 Scholarship
8.4.5.2 Diversity Initiatives
8.4.5.3 Recruitment
8.4.5.4 Risk Management
8.4.5.5 Public Relations
8.4.5.6 Leadership

8.4.6 Vice Presidents will decide amongst themselves who will be responsible for taking minutes at meetings and who will be in charge of the IFC’s budget and finances.

8.4.7 The total number of Vice Presidents is not to exceed six (6).
Article 9: Committee Structure

9.1 Committees will be selected through an application process available in the office for Fraternity and Sorority Life

9.2 Due dates for each application will be dependent upon the semester and an interview process will follow

9.3 Each committee selected will have at least 5 members and a designated chair appointed by the IFC executive council.

Article 10: Committees and Responsibilities

10.1 Hazing Prevention Committee

10.1.1 The purpose of the Hazing Prevention Committee is to address the issues of hazing in fraternal organizations through initiatives like National Hazing Prevention Week and a partnership with HazingPrevention.Org.

10.1.2 This group is also in charge of programming, facilitating conversations and initiatives that combat the hazing culture on campus.

10.2 Interfraternal Relations Committee

10.2.1 The purpose of the Inter-fraternal Relations Committee is to develop initiatives designed to foster brotherhood/sisterhood among fraternal organizations.

10.2.2 The main responsibilities of the committee include, but are not limited to, coordinating Fall Fiesta and Greek Week.

10.3 Service Committee

10.3.1 The purpose of the Service Committee is to engage fraternity members in community service, college service, and philanthropy.

10.3.2 The main responsibilities of this committee include, but are not limited to, coordinating A Week to Give, Senior Prom, Faculty Appreciation Day, Adopt-a-Highway, Meadowbrook Health Care initiatives, and Opening Weekend Activities.

10.4 Diversity Committee
10.4.1 The purpose of the Up ’til Dawn Committee is to create dialogue about topics of gender, race, class, ability, sexual orientation and other areas of diversity, assist in the identification and mediation of problematic incidents and encourage collaboration between groups on topics of diversity.

**Article 11: IFC Judicial Procedures**

Article 11 and all articles hereafter related to standards processes have been removed and amended. [See appendix A]

**Article 14: Amendments/Ratification**

14.1 This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members of the IFC, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to all representatives at least one (1) week prior to the next IFC meeting and notice of such intended action is given to each fraternity.

14.2 This constitution shall become effective when three-fourths of all fraternities have approved it. Upon ratification of this document, any and all previous constitutions and by-laws shall be null and void.

**Appendix A: Standards**

Organizations holding themselves and other organizations accountable are vital to having a functioning Standards Board and judicial process, which will in turn perpetuate values based Fraternity/Sorority community. There are different methods of holding groups and individuals accountable. These include but are not limited to:

- Utilizing the online incident report which can be found on the Fraternity/Sorority Life website.
- Reporting an incident to the Interfraternity Council Vice President of Standards
- Reporting an incident directly to the University Police.

An organization that is alleged to have violated fraternal standards may be referred to the Interfraternity Standards Board upon recommendation of the Fraternal Review and Referral Committee.

1. The V.P. of Standards will be notified of charges via The Fraternal Review and Referral Committee.
2. The V.P. of Standards will contact the organization’s president in writing on behalf of the Standards Board informing him that the organization is alleged to
have violated Fraternal Standards. The organization’s president will be informed that he has the option to plead **responsible** or **not responsible** to the charges.

1. Plea must be filed within one week after receipt of the charges in writing.

- If an organization pleads **responsible** they will be notified in writing that they are to appear before the Standards Board to discuss potential sanctions and a plan of corrective action.
- If an organization pleads **not responsible** they will be notified in writing that they are to appear at the next scheduled Standards Board meeting to have their case heard.
  - The organization’s case will be heard and the Standards Board will find them responsible or not responsible.
    - If found **responsible**, the organization will be notified in writing of their sanction and they must schedule a meeting with the V.P. of Standards and the Director of Fraternity/Sorority Life to discuss a course of corrective action within one week of notification of findings.
    - When an organization is found responsible they will be fall under one of the following statuses *(refer to page three of The Fraternal Standards Manual)*:
      - Suspension
      - Probation
      - Withdrawal of recognition
    - If found **not responsible**, the organization will be notified in writing that they have been found not responsible.

- In order to find an organization responsible there must be a majority vote among the Standards Board members.
  - If not all Standards Board members are present at a hearing, their organization will lose their representation in any decision making processes to take place. The majority vote will still apply for the remaining Standards Board members.

**Members of the Standards Board shall consist of:**

- The V.P. of Standards
  - Will preside over bi-weekly committee meetings including hearings;
    - Will preside over meetings discussing corrective action
    - Will represent Standards Board at Fraternal Review and Referral Committee
  - If the V.P. of Standards is unable to attend a scheduled meeting or hearing the IFC President will take his place.
- The judicial or standards chair from every recognized organization unless otherwise specified
  - Will attend all bi-weekly Standards Board meetings and all scheduled hearings
• If unable to attend that organization’s president will take place.

• Fraternity/Sorority Life advisor
  ◦ Non-voting member
  ◦ Will notify Standards Board within 72 hours if unable to attend.

**Responsibilities and expectations of Standards Board members:**

• Attend all scheduled meetings and hearings
  ◦ The consequences for missing a Standards Board meeting are the following:
    ▪ 1st offense: Written warning
    ▪ 2nd offense: $50.00 fine
    ▪ 3rd offense: Loss of representation on Standards Board for the remainder of the semester

• Contribute to conversations involving issues the fraternal community is facing and provide input and insight on possible solutions.

• Take information and conversations deemed appropriate back to chapter.
  ◦ Certain information such as standards hearings may be confidential and Standards Board members are expected to uphold confidentiality.

• Take part in questioning and challenging organizations during hearings.

• Take part in conversations involving possible sanctions and educating organizations.

• Be non-biased and fair in decision making processes.

**Rights and responsibilities of organizations brought up on charges:**

• Organizations have the right to plead not responsible and request a hearing with the Standards Board.

• Organizations are expected to respond to contact from the Standards Board by pleading responsible or not responsible.

• Organizations are expected to attend all scheduled meetings and hearings with the Standards Board.

• Organizations are expected to comply with any sanctions or requests made by the Standards Board.

• Organizations are expected to comply with all time lines explained in the Fraternal Standards process.

• Organizations have the right to question and challenge the charges they have been accused of as well as any evidence put forth.

• Organizations have the right to have witnesses and additional evidence present during a hearing if deemed relevant and appropriate by the V.P. of Standards.
  ◦ The president of the organization facing charges must notify the V.P. of Standards at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled hearing.
  ◦ The V.P. of Standards must present all evidence that will be used in the hearing to the organizations president at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled hearing.

• An organization has the right to appeal if they are found responsible for charges
by the Standards Board. In this case the organization is responsible for scheduling a hearing with the Committee on Fraternal Affairs. The decision made by the Committee on Fraternal Affairs is final.

**Transparency:**

_The Interfraternity Council believes that having a transparent standards process is important. It is important that organizations know that all reports of incidents are taken seriously and that failure to adhere to Fraternal Standards will result in consequences._

- After the V.P. of Standards is informed by the Fraternal Review and Referral Committee that an organization is being charged for allegedly violating Fraternal Standards he will announce the charges at the next scheduled representatives meeting.
- The outcome of the case whether it is found that the organization is responsible or not responsible will be announced and distributed in writing to the representatives at the next scheduled representatives meeting.
  - Copies of the sanction letter and corrective action will be distributed to all representatives.

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