Standards Code of the Inter-Fraternity Council at SUNY Plattsburgh

I. Introduction

The Inter-Fraternity Council is the governance council for all recognized fraternities at the State University of New York. The primary focus of the Inter-Fraternity Council is to offer support, guidance, and assistance in any and all matters among fraternities. The Inter-Fraternity Council exists to help all recognized fraternities excel in every pillar of excellence. The Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board exists to maintain all regulations put forth by the Inter-fraternity Council, and to uphold faithfully the standards and principals of Fraternity life on campus. The Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board operates under the idea that a Fraternity man should have respect for himself, his community, and all other members among the fraternal community. The Code of the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards board exists to outline behavior that is acceptable among the fraternities at SUNY Plattsburgh. The Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board aids in resolving any behavior that may be deemed unacceptable or inappropriate in any nature. In order to maintain a positive and effective community amongst fraternities, it is imperative that each fraternity man holds every other fraternity man accountable for his actions; this is to ensure that our fraternal community remains a value based community that thrives off of one another.

A.) There are a myriad of ways to hold one another accountable. These ways include but are not limited to:

i.) Utilizing the online incident report which can be found on the Organization Development website at: http://www.plattsburgh.edu/offices/admin/studentaffairs/organizationdevelopment/incidentreport.php.

ii.) Reporting an incident to the Interfraternity Council Vice President of Standards or Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

iii.) Reporting an incident directly to the University Police.

Article I. (Regulations)

Section 1

Inter-Fraternity Council fraternities are officially recognized as student organizations by the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. Inter-Fraternity Council membership has requirements, which include abiding by all laws set forth by the State University of New York, The State of New York and the Inter-Fraternity Council. Any infractions that may occur among fraternities will subject that fraternity to disciplinary action that is decided by the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board.

Section 2

The Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board has the ability to interpret the entire Inter-Fraternity Council Constitution, any and all bylaws, and the fraternal standards manual. The Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board may advise for any revisions or modifications that may be recommended for the Fraternal Standards Manual. The director of Fraternity and Sorority life along with the Vice President for Standards of the Inter-Fraternity Council have the official decision in all official sanctions.
Section 3

Fraternities will be held accountable for their actions. Any incident that is reported back to the Fraternal Review and Referral Committee will be dealt with accordingly. Substantial evidence must be presented in order to convict a fraternity. The Inter-Fraternity Council, and the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board will handle each incident report fairly on unbiased terms. Regulations are subject to change in accordance with the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board, the Inter-Fraternity Council Executive Board, the Fraternal Standards Manual, the SUNY Plattsburgh Code of Conduct, and the SUNY Plattsburgh Club and Organization Conduct Manual.

Article II. (Organization)

The Director of Fraternity and Sorority life serves as an advisee to the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board.

The Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board shall be guided and regulated by the Vice-President of Standards.

Section 1 (Selection of Delegates)

1.) It is the overall duty of the Vice-President of Standards for the Inter-Fraternity Council to contact each member of an organization who is going to become part of the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board.

2.) Each IFC Standards delegate will be required to attend a training presentation at the beginning of each semester, as well as attend bi-weekly Inter-Fraternity Council official standards meetings.

3.) The IFC Standards delegate must meet all requirements required by the Inter-Fraternity Council; if the delegate does not meet the requirements, he will be replaced by another member of that organization that is approved by the Vice President for Standards for the Inter-Fraternity Council.

Section 2 (Eligibility)

1.) A grade point average of 2.50 must be held by every standards delegate for the Inter-Fraternity Council

2.) Each Standards Delegate must be the Standards Board Chairman for their respective organization.

3.) Attend all mandatory meetings set forth by the Vice President for Standards for the Inter-Fraternity Council.

4.) All Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board Delegates must sign the confidentiality policy created by the Vice President of Standards from the IFC and ISA.

5.) If any delegate breaks the confidentiality policy set out by the IFC Vice President of standards, he will be immediately dismissed from the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board. The
organization from which the original delegate came from is responsible for selecting a new standards delegate immediately following the termination of the delegate who broke regulations.

Section 3 (Removal)

1. The advisor to the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards board, along with the Inter-Fraternity Council Executive board may remove a delegate from the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board.

2. A member of the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board may be removed for failure to comply with the confidentiality stipulation. Any Standards Delegate who breaks confidentiality will subject his respective organization to a $500 fine, termination from the board and/or other sanction(s) as designated by the IFC Executive Board.

Section 4. (Jurisdiction)

1.) Matters involving violation of Inter-Fraternity Council regulations shall fall within the jurisdiction of the Standards Code of the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board.

2.) The Standards Board shall have the power to interpret all parts of the Inter-Fraternity Council Constitution, Bylaws, and the Fraternal Standards Manual.

3.) The Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board can make recommendations to the IFC VP of Standards and the Director of Fraternity/Sorority Life regarding the sanctions given to an organization.

4.) The IFC VP of Standards and the Director of Fraternity/Sorority Life will be the final determination in the sanctions given to an organization.

Article III. (Procedures)

Section 1

When a report is filed, it is to be brought to the Fraternal Review and Referral Committee (FRRC), which is comprised of the Inter-Sorority Association and Inter-fraternity Council Vice Presidents for Standards, the Director of Student Conduct, the Director of Fraternity/Sorority Life and the University Police Assistant Chief of Police or Investigator.

Section 2

If the Fraternal Review & Referral committee concludes that the Interfraternity Council Vice President of Standards should pursue an investigation in the matter, the following steps will be taken:

1.) An official meeting between the accused organization and the Interfraternity Council Vice President of Standards will be set up and held.

2.) If the organization pleads responsible and signs the a document accepting responsibility as presented by the Inter-Fraternity Council VP of Standards then it will be brought to a meeting with the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Inter-Fraternity Council VP of Standards to determine appropriate sanctions.
3.) If the organization pleads not responsible the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board will meet to determine if the organization is responsible/not responsible. If the organization is found responsible the Inter-Fraternity Council Standards Board will make recommendations to the Interfraternity Council VP of Standards for sanctions. Then the Interfraternity Council VP of Standards and the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life will meet to determine sanctions.

4.) The Interfraternity Council VP of Standards will report the approved sanctions to the organization within 72 hours of the determination of standards, unless otherwise notified.

5.) Organizations will be required to meet with the Interfraternity VP of Standards to discuss the sanctions and deadlines.

B. Organizations who are found to be responsible of a non-standards violation, as determined by the Review and Referral Committee will be contacted by the Interfraternity Council VP of Standards to schedule a meeting to discuss the situation and help the group create a solution.

Article IV. (Request for an appeal)

Section 1
An organization aggrieved by the Standards Board’s decision has the right to appeal to the Interfraternity Council’s Executive Council

Section 2
An appeal must be made in writing (one page typed) and distributed to the IFC VP Of Standards no later than two business days after receiving the letter informing the organization of the Interfraternity Council’s decision.

Section 3
Appeals must be based on one or more of the following criteria:
A. Severity of sanction(s).
B. Improper hearing procedures.

Section 4:
- For an appeal the Inter-Fraternity Council Executive board will review the sanctions and determine if an appeal will be granted.
- The IFC Executive board can make any changes to the sanctions that they deem fit.
- The approved sanctions from the appeal devised by the IFC Executive Board cannot be modified in any way and will be the permanent sanctions of the organization who has created the appeal.
- The organization will be electronically informed of the sanctions and the outcomes of the appellate meeting within 5 business days following the meeting.
Article V. Amendments

Any member of the Inter-Fraternity Council or IFC Standards Board may propose an amendment to the IFC Standards Code. Any changes are contingent to approval of the Inter-Fraternity Council by three-fourths vote of the voting Representative members of the IFC, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing at the preceding regular IFC meeting.

Mixer and/or party themes will abide by the following guidelines

Will not be offensive to any race, nationality, culture, religion or ethnicity

1. Examples of this are as follows but are not limited to: Cowboys and Indians, Colonial Bros and Nava-hoes, CMT VS BET, heaven vs. hell

Will not be degrading to any gender, gender identity or sexual orientation

1. Examples of this are as follows but are not limited to: gender bender, CEO and office hoes, GI Joe’s & Barbie hoes

Mixer/Party themes will not involve derogatory/demeaning words or phrases

1. Examples of this are as follows but are not limited to: hoes

Mixer and/or party themes that are degrading and/or damaging to the purpose, values, mission and reputation of fraternal organizations.

1. Examples of this are as follows but are not limited to: TSM VS TFM