Constitution of the Interfraternity Council at the Rochester Institute of Technology

Mission

We, the Interfraternity Council at the Rochester Institute of Technology, set forth this Constitution and Bylaws in order to facilitate a closer working relationship and coordination among its Member Fraternities and the administration within the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as the Interfraternity Council (IFC) at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

Article II – Purpose of the IFC

The purpose of the IFC shall be to:
1. Provide a sovereign governance structure for its Member Fraternities;
2. Promote the interests of its Member Fraternities;
3. Discuss questions of mutual interest and present to its Member Fraternities such recommendations as the IFC deems appropriate;
4. Promote mutual cooperation between the IFC, fellow governing councils, and student organizations at RIT; and
5. Promote mutual cooperation between the IFC and Member Fraternities, RIT, its students, faculty, staff, and local community.

Article III – Rights and Responsibilities of the IFC

The IFC at RIT maintains the right to exert the following rights and responsibilities:
1. Vote on the acceptance of social fraternities that will attempt to join the IFC at RIT;
2. Conduct business within its own meetings in an unencumbered manner;
3. Remove a Member Fraternity from IFC in the event they violate the Constitution or Bylaws;
4. Conduct a vote to remove a Member Fraternity from IFC and send a former Member Fraternity to RIT Student Conduct as a result of being removed from IFC;
5. Implement corrective measures against organizations that fail to follow the IFC Constitution and Bylaws or are accused of action unbecoming a Member Fraternity;
6. Maintain a judicial process solely apart from that of RIT’s Office of Student Conduct;
7. Elect its own free standing executive board;
8. To work partner with RIT on the expansion process of new and rechartering NIC and non-NIC fraternities;
9. The right to have a representative present at any conduct case brought against a Member Fraternity;
10. To work in conjunction with the Office of Student Conduct on any conduct case where a Member Fraternity has had charges brought against them;
11. The power to contact inter/national offices as a manner of collecting delinquent dues and/or fines.

Article IV – IFC Membership

Section I – Membership Eligibility
1. Membership in the IFC is open to chapters and colonies of social fraternities at RIT.

Section II – Membership Classification for Member Fraternities
1. Full Member – any fraternity chapter which has obtained its charter from its inter/national organization. Full membership grants the Member Fraternity all rights, privileges, and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and Bylaws.
2. Associate Member – any fraternity colony of an inter/national organization attempting to become a Full Member. Associate membership grants the Member Fraternity all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and Bylaws except that they will not having voting privileges, cannot hold Executive Board positions, nor have an Judicial Committee justice.

For the purpose of this Constitution and the IFC Bylaws, both Full Members and Associate members will be referred to as “Member Fraternities.”
Section III – Member Fraternity Minimum Expectations
Each Member Fraternity shall adhere to and abide by the following minimum expectations:

1. Each Member Fraternity shall comply with all policies set forth by:
   a. The IFC Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, and other polices
   b. The rules and regulations of RIT
2. The general values-based conduct of fraternity men
3. Each Member Fraternity shall maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75 per term
4. Each Member Fraternity shall be current on all IFC dues and/or fines owed
5. Each Member Fraternity shall submit required membership rosters to the IFC VP of Communications, as follows:
   a. Active Member Roster – Active Member Rosters shall be submitted by the end of the fourth week of each term
   b. New Member Roster – New Member Roster shall be submitted within one week of the New Member class signing the Fraternity & Sorority Life Bid Card
6. Each Member Fraternity shall comply with the attendance policy for the IFC General Meeting and the IFC Judicial Committee, as outlined within this Constitution

A Member Fraternity which has failed to meet any of the minimum expectations outlined in this section shall be referred to the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs for potential judicial review

Section IV – Membership Status for Member Fraternities
The membership status of Member Fraternities shall be as follows:

1. Good Standing – A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be in Good Standing if the Member Fraternity is not currently operating under any sanctions, as defined within the IFC Bylaws, and is currently meeting the minimum expectations outlined in Section II of this Article
2. Probationary Standing – A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be on Probationary Standing if the Member Fraternity is currently operating under a sanction and currently meets the minimum expectations outlined in Section II of this Article
3. Suspended – A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be in Poor Standing if the Member Fraternity has been placed under Suspension by the IFC and has currently failed to meet the minimum expectations outlined in Section II of this Article

Section V – Individual Member Definitions
For the purpose of this Constitution and the IFC Bylaws, and with an understanding that each Member Fraternity may have its own terminology for internal use, individuals will be defined as follows:

1. Active Member – an Active Member shall be defined as any man who has been initiated into any IFC fraternity in good standing with the Member Fraternity
2. Inactive Member – An Inactive Member shall be defined as any man who does not meet the qualifications for any of the other Individual Member definitions and is not listed on the official roster
3. New Member – A New Member shall be defined as any man who has accepted a bid to join a fraternity at RIT but has not been initiated into that fraternity
4. Potential New Member – A Potential New Member shall be defined as any man who has not accepted a bid from any social fraternity at RIT

Section VI – NIC Standards
The IFC affirms and adopts the NIC Standards, and each Member Fraternity shall be required to meet the following in order to maintain IFC membership:

1. Each Member Fraternity shall communicate its values through its Ritual at least annually or as prescribed by its policies; and
2. Each Member Fraternity shall regularly communicate the importance of its Active Members and New Members participating in educational programming covering the following topics: academic achievement, alcohol consumption, career preparation, civic engagement, hazing, leadership development, sexual assault/abuse, and values and ethics.
3. Each Member Fraternity shall have policies addressing the following:
   a. A policy requiring any Potential New Member to meet the following minimum educational standards in order to be offered a bid to join:
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i. For first semester freshmen, a minimum high school GPA of 2.30.

ii. For any student with an established college GPA, a minimum college GPA of 2.25 or be at/or above the institution’s all-men’s average.

b. A policy requiring the Member Fraternity to maintain an annual cumulative GPA requirement of at least a 2.50 or be at/or above the institution’s all-men’s average.

c. A policy requiring its New Member education program be no longer than twelve weeks.

d. A policy requiring the Member Fraternity to have a prohibition against women’s auxiliary groups, such as “little sisters”.

e. Risk management policies covering alcohol use, fire safety, hazing, and sexual assault/abuse.

f. A policy requiring the Member Fraternity to support open recruitment and open expansion practices.

g. A policy requiring all recruitment activities be alcohol-free.

h. A policy requiring all New Member education activities be alcohol-free.

The RIT IFC will abide by the NIC Standards and will only modify them in the event that RIT’s system does not support a specific standard

Article V – IFC General Body

Section I – IFC General Body
The powers of the IFC shall be vested in the IFC General Body. The IFC General Body shall be the governing legislative body responsible for the general policies of the IFC, for electing the Executive Board, and for instructing its Executive Board as to the activities and operations of the IFC. All such activities shall respect the individual sovereignty of each Member Fraternity and shall not relinquish any governance authority to any other governing body.

Section II – IFC General Body Composition
The IFC General Body shall be composed of voting IFC Representatives from each Member Fraternity.

Section III – IFC Representatives
Each Member Fraternity shall have two IFC Representatives, chosen by that Member Fraternity, who serves on the IFC General Body.

Section IV – IFC Representative Eligibility
In order to serve as an IFC Representative for a Member Fraternity, individuals must meet the following requirements:
1. Be an Active Member, in good standing, of a Member Fraternity
2. Maintain good academic standing with RIT
3. Conduct himself in a professional manner consistent with the Mission and Purpose of the IFC, as defined within this Constitution.
4. Have a working knowledge of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, RIT rules and regulations, and Member Fraternity risk management policies
5. Not be a current member of the IFC Executive Board

Section V – Term of Office of IFC Representatives
The term of office for IFC Representatives shall be until their graduation, resignation, or replacement under the procedures determined by each Member Fraternity; or upon his election to serve on the IFC Executive Board.

Section VI – IFC General Body Meeting Policies
The IFC General Body shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:
1. The most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used to run all meetings
2. A majority of Member Fraternities present shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct IFC General Body Issues
3. The IFC General Body shall conduct regularly scheduled meetings at least twice a month during the academic year with the exception of those months effected by long breaks (example – December)
4. Special meetings may be called by the IFC President at any time or at the request of two Member Fraternities, with notice of the time, location, and purpose of the special meeting provided to all Member Fraternities at least 72 hours in advance.
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5. Each Member Fraternity’s IFC Representatives are required to attend all meetings of the IFC. Each absence from a required meeting will be subject to a fine of $10 to be paid by the start of the following meeting.
6. More than two absences per term shall result in the Member Fraternity being referred to the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs for potential judicial review.

Section VII – IFC General Body Voting Policies
The IFC General Body shall operate utilizing the following voting polices:
1. Each full Member Fraternity, in good standing, shall have one vote
2. In the event of a tie, the IFC President vote shall serve as a tiebreaker and shall cast the deciding vote
3. With the exception of the election of IFC Executive Board positions, there shall be no secret ballot votes

Article VI – IFC Executive Board

Section I – IFC Executive Board
The IFC Executive Board shall be responsible for carrying out the purpose and policies of the IFC and for its day to day operations and activities, as directed by the IFC General Body.

Section II – IFC Executive Board Composition
The IFC Executive Board shall be composed of the following positions with duties and responsibilities outlined within the IFC Bylaws:
1. President
2. Vice President of Judicial Affairs
3. Vice President of Recruitment
4. Vice President of Finance
5. Vice President of Public Relations
6. Vice President of Programming & Events
7. Vice President of Communications

The listing above shall also serve as the organization’s hierarchy

Section III – IFC Executive Board Eligibility
In order to be elected and serve as a member of the IFC Executive Board, individuals must meet the following requirements:
1. Be an Active Member in good standing of a Member Fraternity for a minimum of one term
2. To be eligible for the position of IFC President, one must have served as a Member Fraternity’s IFC Representative and/or IFC Executive Board member for a period of one semester
3. Must maintain a 2.75 cumulative GPA; if GPA drops below the minimum requirement the individual will be removed automatically and the request for nominations will be open
4. Must be in good personal conduct standing with RIT
5. Must conduct himself in a professional manner consistent with the Mission and Purpose of IFC, as defined within this Constitution
6. Have a working knowledge of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, RIT Policies, and Member Fraternity risk management policies
7. Not currently serving as his Member Fraternity’s President, IFC Representative, or IFC Judicial Committee Justice
8. A maximum of two members from one chapter may serve on the IFC Executive Board at any one time

Section IV – IFC Executive Board Meeting Policies
The IFC Executive Board shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:
1. The most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used to run all meetings
2. A majority of IFC Executive Board members present shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct IFC Executive Board business
3. The IFC Executive Board shall conduct regularly scheduled meetings on a bi-weekly basis
4. Special meetings may be called by the IFC President with notice of time, location, and purpose of the special meeting provided to each IFC Executive Board member at least 72 hours in advance
5. Each IFC Executive Board member is required to attend all meetings of the IFC Executive Board and all meetings of the IFC General Body. Absences may result in removal from office
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Section V – IFC Executive Board Voting Policies
The IFC Executive Board shall operate utilizing the following voting policies during IFC Executive Board meetings:
1. Each IFC Executive Board member shall have one vote
2. The IFC President should refrain from casting his vote except for in the event of a tie. In such instances, the IFC President shall cast the deciding vote
3. There shall be no secret ballot votes

Section VI – Executive Board Election Policies
The following policies and procedures shall be utilized for the election of IFC Executive Board officers:
1. Applications for IFC Executive Board positions shall be accepted any time between the general meeting preceding RIT’s spring break and the beginning of the general meeting following RIT’s spring break.
2. Elections for the IFC Executive board shall happen at the general meeting following RIT’s spring break.
3. Installation of IFC Executive Board officers shall take place during the last business meeting of each academic year
4. Each IFC Executive Board officer shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the IFC General Body
5. In the event none of the candidates for the designated office receives greater than 50% of those cast, the two candidates who received the most votes will be candidates in a runoff election
6. The election of officers shall be done in the hierarchal order listed in Article VI, Section II
7. All E-board members are required to hold at least one transition meeting with the individual elected to take over their position.

Section VII – IFC Executive Board Vacancy Election Process
1. In the event of a vacancy in any IFC Executive Board position, the IFC President shall appoint a successor to complete the term under the advice and consent of the remaining members of the IFC Executive Board
2. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the IFC President, a special election shall be held within two meetings after the vacancy was created

Section VIII – Offenses that Constitute Removal of Officers from the IFC Executive Board
Executive Board Officers may be removed from office for the following reasons:
1. Failure to fulfill responsibilities as a Executive Board Officer
2. Failure to uphold the good name of IFC
3. Behavior inconsistent with that of an Executive Board Officer
4. Violation of conduct unbecoming of a member of a Greek-letter organization
5. Failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher
6. Failure to attend General Body and/or IFC Executive Board meetings

Section IX – Removal of Officers Procedure
1. Upon written complaint to the IFC Adviser and/or the IFC President, by a Member Fraternity or individual member, a special session of the Executive Board will investigate the complaint
   a. The accused Executive Board officer or member will not be present at this special session
   b. If the IFC President is the accused member, the Vice President of Judicial Affairs will preside over the special session of the IFC Executive Board
   c. Executive Board officers must be given at least 72 hours notice of the special session of the Executive Board
2. Executive Board Special Session
   a. Quorum will consist of three-fifths of the Executive Board members
   b. If the special session of the Executive Board concludes that the accusations against the Executive Board Officer have merit, the accused will be informed in writing of the charges against him
   c. The charges will be presented at the next IFC General Body meeting
   d. If the IFC President is the accused member, the Vice President of Recruitment will preside over the IFC General Body meeting
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3. IFC General Body Meeting
   a. Quorum will consist of three-fifths of the Member Fraternities
   b. The Vice President of Judicial Affairs will present the case to remove the member of the Executive Board
   c. If the Vice President of Judicial Affairs is the accused member, the Vice President of Recruitment will present the case
   d. The accused member of the Executive Board will be permitted to present his case or will be permitted to resign
   e. The Member Fraternity delegates will vote on the validity of the charges
   f. A two-thirds majority vote of the Member Fraternities is required to remove the Executive Board member

Article VII – IFC Judicial Committee

Section I – IFC Judicial Committee Jurisdiction
The IFC shall be a self-governing organization with an independent Judicial Committee which shall have jurisdiction over case involving alleged Member Fraternity violations, including but not limited to:
1. The IFC Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, and other policies
2. The rules and regulations of RIT
3. The general values-based conduct of fraternity men

Section II – IFC Judicial Committee Composition
The IFC Judicial Committee shall be composed of one IFC Justice from each Member Fraternity, chosen by that Member Fraternity, and shall be chaired by the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs.

Section III – IFC Justice Eligibility
In order to serve as the IFC Justice for a Member Fraternity on the Judicial Committee, an individual must meet the following requirements:
1. Be an Active Member, in good standing, of an IFC Member Fraternity
2. Maintain a 2.75 cumulative GPA
3. Must conduct himself in a professional manner consistent with the Mission and Purpose of the IFC, as defined within this Constitution
4. Have a working knowledge of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws and RIT policies
5. Not be a current member of the IFC Executive Board
6. Must complete formal judicial policies and procedures training prior to serving on an IFC Judicial Board hearing

Section IV – Term of Office of IFC Justices
The term of office for IFC Justices shall be until their graduation, resignation, or replacement under the procedures determined by each Member Fraternity; or upon his election to serve on the IFC Executive Board

Section V – IFC Judicial Policy
The Judicial Committee shall perform all duties and be subject to all regulations contained within the IFC Judicial Policy in the Bylaws

Section VI – IFC Judicial Board Hearing Justice Selection
The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs will select five (5) Judicial Committee justices, as predetermined by a Greek alphabetical rotation of the Member Fraternities, to hear a case. In the event that IFC Judicial Committee rotation for service on a Judicial Board hearing falls upon an IFC Justice whose Member Fraternity is involved in the alleged violation, the rotation will skip to the next Member Fraternity in the Greek alphabetical rotation

Section VII – IFC Judicial Board Hearing Attendance
All IFC Judicial Board hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the following requirements:
1. All IFC Justices assigned to an IFC Judicial Board hearing shall be present in order to conduct business on behalf of the IFC Judicial Committee
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2. Each IFC Justice assigned to an IFC Judicial Board hearing is required to attend the hearing. Failure of an IFC Justice to attend an IFC Judicial Board hearing for which he was assigned shall result in his Member Fraternity being referred to the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs for potential judicial review.

Section VIII – IFC Judicial Board Hearing Voting Policies
All IFC Judicial Board hearings shall operate utilizing the following voting policies:
1. Each IFC Justice serving on an IFC Judicial Board shall have one vote.
2. A majority vote shall govern all actions of an IFC Judicial Board.

Article VIII – Committees

Section II – IFC Committee Meeting Policies
All committees of the IFC shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:
1. The most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used to run all meetings.
2. A majority of committee members present shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct committee business.
3. Each committee shall meet as called by its committee chair.

Section III – Ad Hoc Committees
The IFC Executive Board or the IFC adviser may form ad hoc committees as deemed necessary to perform the work of the IFC. The IFC Executive Board or IFC Adviser shall appoint the ad hoc committee chairman and committee members.

Article IX – Constitutional Amendments

Section I – Constitutional Amendments
This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the IFC General Body provided notice of the proposed amendment has been provided to Member Fraternities at the preceding regularly scheduled business meeting of the IFC General Body.

Section II – Adoption
This Constitution shall become effective and shall supersede all previous Constitutions of the IFC when adopted by a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the IFC General Body.

Approved 10-31-13