



# INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL AT MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Last Revised April 2020

### MISSION

We, the Interfraternity Council at Middle Tennessee State University set forth this Constitution and Bylaws in order to cause closer working relationships and coordination among its Member Fraternities and Middle Tennessee State University.

### ARTICLE I – NAME

This organization shall be known as the Interfraternity Council (IFC) at Middle Tennessee State University.

### ARTICLE II – PURPOSE OF THE IFC

The purpose of the IFC shall be to:

- A. provide a sovereign governance structure for its Member Fraternities;
- B. promote the interests of its Member Fraternities;
- C. promote the interests of men's fraternities in general;
- D. discuss questions of mutual interest and present to its Member Fraternities such recommendations as the IFC deems appropriate;
- E. promote the interests of Middle Tennessee State University;
- F. promote mutual cooperation between its Member Fraternities;
- G. promote mutual cooperation between the IFC, fellow governing councils, and student organizations at Middle Tennessee State University; and
- H. promote mutual cooperation between the IFC and Middle Tennessee State University, its students, faculty, staff, and local community.

### ARTICLE III – IFC MEMBERSHIP

#### Section I. Membership Eligibility

Membership in the IFC is open to chapters and colonies of fraternities at Middle Tennessee State University, as follows:

- A. Any chapter or colony of a North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) member

organization shall hold membership in the IFC.

- B. Any chapter or colony of a local, state, regional, or inter/national fraternity, which is not a member of the NIC, may hold membership in the IFC.

## **Section II. Membership Classification for Member Fraternities**

The membership classification of Member Fraternities shall be as follows:

- A. Full Member: Any fraternity chapter, which has obtained its charter from its inter/national organization, or any local fraternity chapter. Full Membership grants the Member Fraternity all rights, privileges and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. Associate Member: Any fraternity colony of an inter/national organization. Associate Membership grants the Member Fraternity all rights, privileges, and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, except that it does not have voting privileges, cannot hold IFC Executive Board positions, nor have an IFC Judicial Committee Justice.

For the purpose of this Constitution and the IFC Bylaws, both Full Members and Associate Members are referred to as Member Fraternities. Additionally, "Good Standing" is defined as meeting all Member Fraternity minimum expectations as defined in Article III, Section IV.

## **Section III. Member Fraternity Minimum Expectations**

Each Member Fraternity shall adhere to and abide by the following minimum expectations:

- A. Each Member Fraternity shall comply with all policies set forth by:
  - a. The IFC Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, and other policies.
  - b. The rules and regulations of Middle Tennessee State University.
  - c. The general values-based conduct of fraternity men.
- B. Each Member Fraternity shall maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50.
  - a. Each Member Fraternity with a previous semester GPA below 2.5 will be subject to fines as outlined in Article IX, Section II of the IFC bylaws, and must meet with the Vice President of Membership.
- C. Each Member Fraternity shall be current on all IFC dues and fines owed.
- D. Each Member Fraternity shall submit required membership rosters to the Fraternity and Sorority Life Office, as follows:
  - a. Active Member Roster: Active Member Rosters shall be submitted by the dates set by the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
  - b. New Member Roster: New Member Rosters shall be submitted within one week of the acceptance of a bid by any New Member.
- E. Each Member Fraternity shall comply with the following attendance policy or be subject to the following fines:
  - a. All Member Fraternity Delegates must be present at every IFC meeting. Each Delegate is offered one unexcused absence.
  - b. Absences may be pre-approved if submitted to the Executive Board 24 hours in advance of the meeting. These absences will be excused on a case-by-case basis.

- c. Every unexcused absence beyond one per person will incur a \$25 fine per absence.
- F. Member Fraternities shall not be on current sanctioning from the University and/or their Executive Office.

A Member Fraternity which has failed to meet any of the minimum expectations outlined in this Section shall be subject to fines and/or 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:

- A. Good Standing: A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be in Good Standing if the Member Fraternity is not currently operating under Non-Status Sanctions or Status Sanctions, as defined within the IFC Bylaws, and is currently meeting the minimum expectations outlined in Section III of this Article.
- B. Good Standing on Probation: A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be in Good Standing on Probation if the Member Fraternity is currently operating under Non-Status Sanctions and currently meets the minimum expectations outlined in Section III of this Article.
- C. Poor Standing: A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be in Poor Standing if the Member Fraternity has been placed under Suspension by the IFC or has currently failed to meet the minimum expectations outlined in Section III 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:

- A. Active Member: An Active Member shall be defined as any man who has been initiated into any fraternity at Middle Tennessee State University.
- B. New Member: A New Member shall be defined as any man who has accepted a bid to join a fraternity at Middle Tennessee State University, but has not been initiated into that fraternity.
- C. Potential New Member: A Potential New Member shall be defined as any man who has not accepted a bid from any fraternity at Middle Tennessee State University.

Membership shall be limited to currently enrolled MTSU students, faculty, and/or staff members. Membership shall not be denied to any person on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity, provided that social fraternities and sororities may have sex restricted membership.

#### **Section VI. IFC Standards**

The IFC affirms the following standards, and each Member Fraternity shall be required to meet the following in order to maintain IFC membership:

- A. Each Member Fraternity shall communicate its values through its Ritual at least

- annually or as prescribed by its policies;
- B. 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, drug use, hazing, leadership development, sexual assault/abuse, and values and ethics.
  - C. Each Member Fraternity shall have policies addressing the following:
    - a. A policy requiring its New Member education program be no longer than eight weeks.
    - b. A policy requiring the Member Fraternity to have a prohibition against women’s auxiliary groups, such as “little sisters”.
    - c. Risk management policies covering alcohol use, drug use, fire safety, hazing, and sexual assault/abuse.
    - d. A policy requiring all recruitment activities be alcohol-free.
    - e. A policy requiring all New Member education activities be alcohol-free.

## **ARTICLE IV – 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 its 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 one voting IFC Delegate from each Member Fraternity.

### **Section III. IFC Delegates**

Each Member Fraternity shall have one IFC Delegate, chosen by that Member Fraternity, who serves on the IFC General Body and attends all IFC meetings.

### **Section IV. IFC Alternate Delegates**

Each Member Fraternity may also choose an IFC Alternate Delegate, who shall represent that Member Fraternity in the IFC General Body in the absence of its IFC Delegate.

### **Section V. IFC Delegate and Alternate Delegate Eligibility**

In order to serve as the IFC Delegate or Alternate Delegate for a Member Fraternity, individuals must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be an Active Member or New Member, in good standing, of a Member Fraternity.
- B. Maintain a 2.5 overall GPA.
- C. Be devoted to the general ideals and principles of fraternity life and conduct himself in a professional manner consistent with the Mission and Purpose of the IFC, as

defined within this Constitution.

- D. Have a working knowledge of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, Middle Tennessee State University policies, and NIC risk management policies.
- E. Not be a current member of the IFC Executive Board or currently serve as his Member Fraternity's IFC Judicial Committee Justice.
- F. Shall not be the President of a Member Fraternity.

#### **Section VI. Term of Office of IFC Delegates**

The term of office for IFC Delegates 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 or as his Member Fraternity's IFC Justice for the IFC Judicial Committee.

#### **Section VII. IFC General Body Meeting Policies**

The IFC General Body shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:

- A. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to run all meetings.
- B. A majority of Member Fraternities in good standing present shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct IFC General Body business.
- C. The IFC General Body shall conduct regularly scheduled business meetings at least twice a month during the academic year.
- D. 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.

#### **Section VIII. IFC General Body Voting Policies**

The IFC General Body shall operate utilizing the following voting policies:

- A. Each Member Fraternity, in good standing, shall have one vote.
- B. In the event of a tie, the IFC President shall cast the deciding vote.
- C. With the exception of the election of IFC Executive Board positions, there shall be no secret ballot votes. A secret ballot vote shall be one in which the Member Fraternity's name is not recorded.

### **ARTICLE V – 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:

- A. President
- B. Vice President of Judicial Affairs
- C. Vice President of Membership
- D. Vice President of Logistics

- E. Vice President of Administration

### **Section III. IFC Executive Board Eligibility**

In order to be elected and to serve as a member of the IFC Executive Board, individuals must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be an Active Member or New Member who has been a delegate, an alternate delegate, a member of an IFC subcommittee, collegiate council officer, or held an office that provided him with significant, relevant experience and in good standing of a Member Fraternity.
- B. Maintain good academic standing with the Middle Tennessee State University.
- C. Be devoted to the general ideals and principles of fraternity life and conduct himself in a professional manner consistent with the Mission and Purpose of the IFC, as defined within this Constitution.
- D. Have a working knowledge of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, Middle Tennessee State University policies, and NIC risk management policies.
- E. Cannot concurrently serve as his Member Fraternity's Chapter President, IFC Delegate, Alternate Delegate, or IFC Judicial Committee Justice.
- F. Must complete formal judicial policies and procedures training.
- G. Must have and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75

### **Section IV. IFC Executive Board Meeting Policies**

The IFC Executive Board shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:

- A. A majority of IFC Executive Board members present shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct IFC Executive Board business.
- B. The IFC Executive Board shall conduct regularly scheduled meetings on a weekly basis.
- C. Special meetings may be called by the IFC President with notice of the time, location, and purpose of the special meeting provided to each IFC Executive Board member at least 48 hours in advance.
- D. 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.

### **Section V. IFC Executive Board Voting Policies**

The IFC Executive Board shall operate utilizing the following voting policies during IFC Executive Board meetings:

- A. Each IFC Executive Board member shall have one vote.
- B. There shall be no secret ballot votes.

### **Section VI. IFC Executive Board Election Policies**

The following policies and procedures shall be utilized for the election and removal of IFC Executive Board officers:

- A. Applications are required for all Executive Board positions and will be accepted from Interfraternity Council affiliated members whose fraternities hold active

- membership in the Interfraternity Council. The current Executive Board shall review applications and hold interviews for each position.
- B. Elections and installations of IFC Executive Board officers shall take place during the second to last business meeting of each calendar year.
  - C. Each IFC Executive Board officer shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the IFC General Body.
  - D. Any individual serving in an IFC Executive Board position may be removed from his position by a 3/4 affirmative vote of the IFC General Body or by a unanimous vote by all other members of the IFC Executive Board.
  - E. In the event of a vacancy in any IFC Executive Board position, the IFC President shall appoint a successor under the advice and consent of the remaining members of the IFC Executive Board until the next scheduled IFC meeting where a special election process will happen.
  - F. The slate will be presented and will serve as the Interfraternity Council Executive Board's endorsement of the candidates.
  - G. One week prior to elections each chapter will be provided with the slate.
  - H. All candidates' applications will be made available to the chapters prior to elections.
  - I. The officers of the Middle Tennessee State University Interfraternity Council shall be elected in the following order: President, Vice President of Judicial Affairs, Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Logistics, and Vice Presidents of Administration.
  - J. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the IFC President, a special election shall be held within two meetings after the vacancy is created. In the interim, the Vice President of Judicial Affairs will serve as IFC President.

## **ARTICLE VI – 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 cases involving alleged Member Fraternity violations, including but not limited to:

- A. The IFC Constitution, Bylaws, and Recruitment Rules.

### **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 IFC Judicial Committee, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be an Active Member, in good standing, of an IFC Member Fraternity.
- B. Have and maintain a 2.75 cumulative GPA.
- C. Have a working knowledge of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, Middle Tennessee

- State University policies, and NIC Alcohol and Drug Guidelines and be devoted to the ideals and principals of fraternity life as well as the Mission and Purpose of the IFC.
- D. Not be a current member of the IFC Executive Board or serve as his Member Fraternity's IFC Delegate, Alternate Delegate or chapter president.
  - E. Must complete formal judicial policies and procedures training prior to serving on an IFC Judicial Board hearing.
    - a. Failure to attend Judicial Training without a prior approved excuse will result in a \$25 fine for the member fraternity that the absent Justice represents.
  - F. Failure to submit an IFC Justice by the deadline set by the Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall result in a \$25 fine at the discretion of the IFC Executive Council

**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 or as his Member Fraternity's IFC Delegate, Alternate Delegate, or Chapter President.

**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 Attendance**

All IFC Judicial Board hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the following requirements:

- A. A majority of IFC Justices shall be present in order to conduct business on behalf of the IFC Judicial Committee.
- B. Each IFC Justice is required to attend the hearing. Failure of an IFC Justice to attend an IFC Judicial Board hearing without a prior approved excuse shall result in his Member Fraternity being fined \$25.
- C. The chapter that is up for review can choose to replace their IFC Justice with a chosen chapter delegate who will not have a vote during the hearing.

**Section VII. IFC Judicial Board Hearing Voting Policies**

All IFC Judicial Board hearings shall operate utilizing the following voting policies:

- A. Each IFC Justice serving on an IFC Judicial Board hearing shall have one vote.
- B. A majority vote shall govern all actions of an IFC Judicial Board.

**ARTICLE VII – IFC COMMITTEES**

**Section I. Standing Committees**

The IFC shall have the following standing committees chaired by its respective corresponding member of the IFC Executive Board:

- A. Membership Committee



**Section II. Ad Hoc Committees**

The IFC Executive Board or the IFC President may form ad hoc committees as deemed necessary to perform the work of the IFC. The IFC President shall appoint the ad hoc committee chairman and committee members with the concurrence of the IFC Executive Board.

**Section III. IFC Committee Meeting Polices**

All committees of the IFC shall conduct its meetings according to the following requirements:

- A. A majority of committee members present shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct committee business.
- B. Each committee shall meet as called by its committee chair.

**ARTICLE VIII – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

**Section I. Constitutional Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) 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 ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) affirmative vote of the IFC General Body.

**BYLAWS OF THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL AT  
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**ARTICLE I – ROLE OF THE IFC DELEGATE**

**Section I. IFC Delegate**

The duties and responsibilities of all IFC Delegates are as follows:

- A. Serve as a delegate and voice for his Member Fraternity’s concerns as well as the larger fraternity community while representing the highest ideals of fraternity life to the campus community
- B. Inform his Member Fraternity of the actions, discussions, and workings of the IFC General Body and serve as a liaison between the two.

**ARTICLE II – ROLE OF THE IFC EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS**

**Section I. IFC President**

The duties and responsibilities of the IFC President are as follows:

- A. Serve as the official representative of the IFC.
- B. Provide guidance and focus to the efforts of the General Body and Executive Board.
- C. Preside over all meetings of the General Body and Executive Board.
- D. Serve as the de facto delegate of IFC at CPH and NPHC meetings.
- E. Oversee and assist with the work of the Vice Presidents.
- F. Sign all contracts involving the IFC and may countersign IFC checks.
- G. Perform all other duties as assigned.

**Section II. IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs**

The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs are as follows:

- A. Serve as the Chief Justice of all IFC Judicial Board hearings.
- B. Enforce the IFC Constitution and Bylaws.
- C. Hear all recruitment infraction cases.
- D. Review IFC Bylaws once a semester and present changes.
- E. Hold a Judicial Training once a semester.
- F. Maintain the usage of Robert’s Rules of Order in all meetings of the General Body.
- G. Serves as the interim IFC President if the President is deemed unable to fulfill their prescribed duties until an election can take place.
- H. Ensure proper filing and preparation for all judicial actions.
- I. Ensure compliance with all IFC judicial action imposed upon a Member Fraternity.
- J. Works with campus to provide health and safety education and training for chapters each term.
- K. Perform all other duties as assigned.

**Section III. IFC Vice President of Membership**

The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Vice President of Membership are as follows:

- A. Plan and coordinate membership recruitment dates and deadlines each semester in

- coordination with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- B. Assemble and serve as the chair of the IFC Membership Committee.
- C. Oversee and plan New Member modules in coordination with FSL and Panhellenic.
- D. Attend all CUSTOMS sessions and serve on the FSL Orientation Team.
- E. Compile and distribute potential new member interest lists.
- F. Uphold the IFC Recruitment Policy and ensure no restrictive policies are placed on new member recruitment.
- G. Provide advice and support to Member Fraternity recruitment officers.
- H. Perform all other duties as assigned.

**Section IV. IFC Vice President of Logistics**

The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Associate Vice President of Logistics are as follows:

- A. Actively plan philanthropic events and seek out philanthropic opportunities for the IFC General Body.
- B. Complete Use of Facilities forms needed for IFC Events in a timely manner.
- C. Develop and execute a public relations and social media strategy. Keep the media informed on upcoming events or potential news.
- D. Establish a positive working relationship with external constituents.
- E. Ensures all programs and events have elements of Diversity and Inclusion as part of the planning and execution of the program / event.
- F. Provide advice and support to Member Fraternity community service/philanthropy officers.
- G. Perform all other duties as assigned.

**Section V. IFC Vice President of Administration**

The duties and responsibilities of the IFC Vice President of Logistics are as follows:

- A. Supervise the finances of the Middle Tennessee State University IFC. Countersign IFC checks.
- B. Facilitate the annual budget process.
- C. Collect IFC Member Fraternity dues and other assessments as needed.
- D. Maintain financial accurate records throughout the year through invoicing and receipts.
- E. Review and approve all IFC expenditures requests.
- F. Prepare financial statements monthly and at the end of each term for distribution to all Member Fraternities.
- G. Make bank deposits when necessary and in a timely manner.
- H. Provide advice and support to Member Fraternity financial officers.
- I. Serve as secretary of the IFC General Body and take minutes of each meeting.
- J. Perform all other duties as assigned.

**ARTICLE III – ROLE OF THE IFC JUSTICE**

**Section I. IFC Justice**

The duties and responsibilities of an IFC Justice are as follows:

- A. Serve as an impartial justice, as called, on all IFC Judicial Board hearings.
- B. Uphold the IFC Constitution, Bylaws, and Recruitment rules, the rules and regulations of Middle Tennessee State University and the general values-based conduct of fraternity men.
- C. Maintain confidentiality in all judicial hearings, matters, and deliberations.

#### **ARTICLE IV – ROLE OF IFC STANDING COMMITTEES**

##### **Section I. IFC Membership Committee**

The IFC Membership Committee shall assist the IFC Vice President of Membership in the development and implementation of activities, programs, and resources that foster its Member Fraternities' ability to implement a successful and quality recruitment effort while ensuring no restrictive policies are imposed on new member recruitment.

#### **ARTICLE V – ROLE OF THE IFC ADVISOR**

##### **Section 1. Appointment**

The IFC advisor of the Middle Tennessee State University Interfraternity Council shall be appointed by the Middle Tennessee State University administration.

##### **Section 2. Authority**

The IFC advisor shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Middle Tennessee State University Interfraternity Council. The IFC advisor shall have voice but no vote in all meetings of the Interfraternity Council and the Executive Board.

#### **ARTICLE VI – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY**

##### **Section I. Fiscal Year**

The IFC Fiscal Year shall be from January to December.

##### **Section II. IFC Annual Budget**

The Vice President of Administration shall propose an annual budget to the IFC Executive Board at the Executive Board spring semester work day. Upon adoption by the IFC Executive Board, the budget shall be presented to the IFC General Body for ratification.

##### **Section IV. Appropriate Use of IFC Funds**

IFC funds are under the jurisdiction of the IFC Member Fraternities and shall only be used in a manner that benefits the fraternity/sorority community and that is congruent with the values of fraternity and sorority life. IFC funds shall not be used to purchase alcoholic beverages.

##### **Section V. Expenditure Approval**

The IFC President and/or the IFC Vice President of Administration shall approve budgetary expenditures.

**Section VI. Requests for Reimbursement**

Individuals or Member Fraternities conducting business on behalf of the IFC may request a reimbursement for their expenses utilizing proof of purchase documentation.

**Section VII. Signature Requirements for Financial Accounts and Transactions**

The signature of the IFC President, IFC Vice President of Administration shall be required on all IFC financial accounts and transactions. The IFC Advisor may countersign if the President or Vice President of Administration is unavailable.

**Section VIII. Financial Reporting**

The IFC Vice President of Administration shall provide a financial report to the IFC General Body as needed.

**Section IX. Financial Record Keeping**

The IFC Vice President of Administration shall maintain accurate and organized financial records consisting of all receipts and invoices, copies of all monetary disbursements and deposits, IFC financial forms and reports, actual dues levied, canceled checks, ledgers, and journals. All files will be kept in the FSL Office.

**ARTICLE VII – MEMBER FRATERNITY FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

**Section I. IFC Active Member Fraternity Dues**

The IFC Member Fraternity Dues structure shall be as follows:

- A. The semester dues for each Member Fraternity shall be fixed at \$15.00 per active member.
- B. New member dues are \$15.00 per Bid Acceptance Form submitted to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- C. Establishment of IFC Member Fraternity Dues: Any proposed amendment to the established per active member dues in Section I of this Article shall be initiated utilizing the following protocol:
  - a. If the IFC Executive Board determines a need to amend the established per active member dues amount, it shall assess the current dues amount and providing a recommendation for possible amendments.
  - b. The IFC Executive Board shall consider any recommendations and propose an amendment to the dues amount to the IFC General Body.
  - c. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the IFC General Body is required to amend the IFC Member Fraternity dues amount.

**Section II. IFC Member Fraternity Dues Assessment**

The aggregate total of dues assessed shall be based upon each Member Fraternity's semester Active Member Roster that is filed with the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life in accordance with the requirements of Article III, Section III (D) of the Constitution. The IFC Vice President of Administration shall invoice each Member Fraternity within one week of receipt of

an Active Member Roster or New Member Roster. Invoices shall be paid within two weeks of receipt.

**Section III. Delinquent Payments**

Any amount unpaid by the due date of two weeks after receiving an invoice shall result in a 10% penalty and loss of voice and vote in the IFC General Body until payment has been made. Any amount unpaid within one month of the due date shall result in the Member Fraternity being referred to the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs for possible judicial action.

**ARTICLE VIII – IFC CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Section I. IFC Code of Conduct**

As members of the IFC, we, the Member Fraternities, hereby agree to and adopt the following code of conduct:

- A. We will know and understand the ideals expressed in our fraternity Rituals and will strive to incorporate them in our daily lives.
- B. We will strive for academic achievement and practice academic integrity.
- C. We will respect the dignity of all persons; therefore, we will not physically, mentally, psychologically or sexually abuse or haze.
- D. We will protect the health and safety of all human beings.
- E. We will respect our property and the property of others; therefore, we will neither abuse nor tolerate the abuse of property.
- F. We will meet our financial obligations in a timely manner.
- G. We will neither use nor support the use of illegal drugs; we will neither misuse nor support the misuse of alcohol.
- H. We will challenge all fraternity members to abide by these fraternal expectations and will confront those who violate them.

**ARTICLE IX – IFC SCHOLARSHIP POLICY**

The Middle Tennessee State University fraternity system strives for excellence in scholarship. It seeks to promote diligent application to study by fraternity members, not only in order that requirements of the University be met, but also that achievement above the average level may be attained. In congruence with this philosophy the Middle Tennessee State University Interfraternity Council has developed the following:

**Section I: Fraternities under the All Male Average (AMA)**

If an IFC fraternity falls below the previous semester's All Men's Average for a semester the following semester the scholarship chair and president of that fraternity will be required to meet with the IFC VP of Membership. If a fraternity fails to meet this requirement, they will be referred to the IFC Judicial Board.

**Section II: IFC Fraternity Academic Expectation**

Each Member Fraternity shall maintain a minimum GPA of 2.50. Each Member Fraternity with a

previous semester GPA below 2.50 will be referred to the IFC Judicial Board.

## **ARTICLE X – IFC JUDICIAL POLICY**

### **Section I: Due Process**

In appearing before the Judicial Board, each Member Fraternity shall be granted certain rights termed “due process.” Those rights are:

- A. Right to be notified, in writing, of all charges, as outlined in the Bylaws;
- B. Right to present a defense, including the calling of witnesses;
- C. Right to question witnesses;
- D. Right to be accompanied by an advisor for advisory purposes only, but not for representation;
- E. Right to be notified, in writing, of all findings and sanctions imposed, as outlined in the Bylaws;
- F. Right to appeal the decision, as outlined in the Bylaws.
- G. Right against double jeopardy.

### **Section II. Filing of Complaints**

Any individual or group may file a complaint against a Member Fraternity, specifying in writing the particular alleged acts of the accused. This must be done by submitting an IFC Judicial Complaint Form to the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs. The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall review and investigate the allegation within 7 days of the report. Upon determination that an allegation has merit, the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs may charge a Member Fraternity with a violation.

### **Section IV. Notification of Charges**

Once the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs has determined the filed complaint has merit, the Member Fraternity is to be provided written notification of the charges at least one week in advance of the hearing. This written notification shall include the following:

- A. Date, time and location of their informal judicial hearing; and
- B. Description of the alleged violation

### **Section V. Investigatory Evidence**

All evidence related to a complaint shall be compiled and presented to all parties prior to any Informal Judicial Hearing or Formal Judicial Board Hearing. All evidence shall be directly related to the complaint(s) alleged against the Member Fraternity and shall be approved by the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs prior to circulation.

### **Section VI. Informal Judicial Hearing**

Upon a finding of the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs that a filed complaint has merit, he shall offer the charged Member Fraternity the opportunity to participate in an Informal Judicial Hearing.

In cases in which the charged Member Fraternity accepts an Informal Judicial Hearing, the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs along with the IFC Advisor shall meet with a delegate of the

charged Member Fraternity to discuss the allegations of the complaint. Within three (3) business days of the Informal Judicial Hearing, the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs may dismiss the complaint with a finding of no violations or provide the charged Member Fraternity with his finding of violations and recommendation for a resolution through disciplinary sanctions. The charged Member Fraternity has three (3) business days to accept or reject the terms of resolution. If the charged Member Fraternity accepts the resolution, the charged Member Fraternity waives all rights of appeal and the outcome is final.

If the charged Member Fraternity rejects the resolution, a Formal IFC Judicial Board Hearing will be convened to hear the case.

### **Section VII. Prohibited Sanctions for Informal Judicial Hearings**

The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall not recommend suspension or loss of IFC recognition through an Informal Judicial Hearing. Should the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs believe suspension or loss of IFC recognition is warranted, the case shall automatically be referred to a Formal IFC Judicial Board hearing.

### **Section VIII. Formal IFC Judicial Board Hearing**

If one of the following occurs, the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall convene a Formal IFC Judicial Board Hearing:

- A. The charged Member Fraternity rejects having an Informal Judicial Hearing;
- B. The charged Member Fraternity rejects the Informal Judicial Hearing recommendation for resolution; or
- C. The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs determines the allegation is egregious enough to warrant potential suspension or loss of IFC recognition;

The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall serve as a non-voting Chief Justice and the procedural officer for all Judicial Board hearings.

### **Section IX. Formal IFC Judicial Board Hearing Proceedings**

For all IFC Judicial Board hearings, the following procedures shall be followed:

- A. **Participants:** Attendance at all IFC Judicial Board hearings shall be limited to the Member Fraternities involved, any witnesses, the IFC Justices, the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs, and the IFC Advisor. Additionally, the charged Member Fraternity may be accompanied by its chapter advisor during any Judicial Board hearing. The chapter advisor must be registered as the official chapter advisor of the Member Fraternity.
- B. **Confidentiality:** All individuals involved in a hearing are required to agree to a statement of confidentiality. Individuals shall not disclose information regarding the following:
  - a. Any individuals, Member Fraternities, or IFC Justices involved
  - b. Details of the proceedings
  - c. Witness testimony
- C. **Hearing Process:**



- a. **Initiation of the Hearing:** The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall inform all individuals present that the hearing will be conducted in an orderly manner and any person causing disruption will be asked to leave. Additionally, he shall advise the charged Member Fraternity of the formality of the hearing and the necessity of all parties to be truthful.
- b. **Overview of Judicial Hearing Process:** The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall outline the process for the remainder of the hearing as follows:
  1. **Presentation of alleged charges, violations, and investigatory evidence against the charged Member Fraternity shall be presented by the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs:**
    - i. Charged Member Fraternity may ask questions;
    - ii. IFC Justices may ask questions;
  2. **Presentation of charged Member Fraternity:**
    - i. IFC Justices may ask questions;
  3. **Calling of Witnesses**
    - i. Charged Member Fraternity may ask questions;
    - ii. IFC Justices may ask questions;
  4. **Charged Member Fraternity may give final statement;**
  5. **IFC Justices deliberate in closed session to determine findings of responsibility and if necessary, appropriate sanction(s).**

**Section X. Conflicts of Interest**

In the event the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs' Member Fraternity is involved in the alleged violation, the highest ranking IFC Executive Board officer, starting with the IFC President, as listed in Article V, Section II of the IFC Constitution, shall serve in his stead.

**Section XI. Prohibition of Recruitment Restrictions as a Sanction**

The IFC Judicial Board may impose educational and punitive sanctions, as prescribed in the IFC Bylaws, but under no circumstances may it prohibit a Member Fraternity's ability to recruit.

**Section XII. Non-Status Sanctions**

The following are sanctions that may be imposed by the IFC Judicial Board and/or IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs (including, but not limited to):

- A. Letter of apology
- B. Fines
- C. Restitution
- D. Educational programming
- E. Public service to the campus or community
- F. Meetings with campus office/departments
- G. Loss of social event and/or campus event privileges
- H. Loss of eligibility for FSL Awards
- I. Censure

**Section XIII. Status Sanctions**

In the event of an egregious violation, the following are sanctions that may be imposed by the IFC Judicial Board for a specified period of time:

- A. Suspension: Loss of IFC voting rights, removal from Good Standing status, and any additional sanctions listed in Non-Status Sanctions.

#### **Section XIV. Duration of Sanctions**

Judicial action shall specify the duration and deadlines of any sanctions imposed and may not exceed one calendar year. After such specified time, if the Member Fraternity has fulfilled the requirements of the sanctions imposed, the Member Fraternity shall return to good standing. In the event the Member Fraternity does not fulfill all of the requirements of the sanctions imposed, the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall convene a Formal IFC Judicial Board Hearing to determine future course of action.

#### **Section XV. Notification of Findings**

Within three (3) business days of any Informal or Formal Judicial Hearing, the IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall communicate in writing to the charged Member Fraternity, its inter/national headquarters, and its chapter advisor, as well as any relevant Middle Tennessee State University administrators, the alleged violation, the findings of the hearing, and any sanction(s) imposed.

The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall notify the IFC General Body of any sanctions imposed upon a Member Fraternity through any Informal or Formal Judicial Hearing.

#### **Section XVI. Appeals**

The IFC Judicial Board's decision is subject to appeal by a Member Fraternity within two weeks of receiving written notification of the decision. Appeals shall be made in writing to the IFC President and shall be made solely on the following grounds:

- A. Error in the charge and/or Judicial Board Hearing process that materially affected the outcome.
- B. The severity of the sanction did not match the severity of the violation.
- C. New information that could not have been discovered prior to the IFC Judicial Board Hearing through the exercise of reasonable diligence.

Sanctions imposed through the Judicial Process shall stand until an appeal is heard.

#### **Section XVII. Non-Status Sanctions Appeals**

The IFC Executive Board shall hear appeals for Non-Status Sanctions. The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall first present the IFC Judicial Board's decision and rationale for its actions. The appealing Member Fraternity shall then be afforded the opportunity to present its reasoning for seeking a reconsideration of the IFC Judicial Board's actions. Any individual from the appealing Member Fraternity serving on the IFC Executive Board shall not participate in the appeal proceedings. The IFC Executive Board may either dismiss the charge(s) with no sanctions or to alter the sanctions imposed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote. The decision of the IFC Executive Board shall be final for Non-Status Sanctions.

### **Section XIX. Status Sanctions Appeals**

The IFC General Body shall hear appeals for Status Sanctions. The IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs shall first present the IFC Judicial Board's decision and rationale for its actions. The appealing Member Fraternity shall then be afforded the opportunity to present its reasoning for seeking a reconsideration of the decision. Upon completion of the Member Fraternity appeal presentation, all delegates of the Member Fraternity shall be dismissed from the meeting, including the Member Fraternity's IFC Delegate and Alternate Delegate.

The IFC General Body shall first vote on whether to uphold the status sanction, which shall require a three-fourths (3/4) vote. In the event the IFC General Body fails to uphold the decision, the IFC General Body shall determine by a three-fourths (3/4) vote to either dismiss the charge(s) with no sanctions or to alter the sanctions imposed.

The decision of the IFC General Body shall be final with no further appeal rights.

## **ARTICLE XI – EXPANSION POLICY**

### **Section I. Expansion Philosophy**

The IFC at Middle Tennessee State University believes the best interests of higher education and of the fraternity movement are served through the establishment of new chapters that provide a fraternal experience for an increasing number of college men. Expansion gives men more choices; it brings new influence and direction to a campus fraternal community; it provides new leadership and renewed motivation. To that end, the Member Fraternities of the Interfraternity Council reserve the right to accept or deny inter/national organization from selecting undergraduates for the purpose of establishing a chapter on the campus.

### **Section II. Expansion Process**

- A. In the event the IFC wishes to seek expansion opportunities, a formal invitation shall be sent to inter/national organizations requesting a Letter of Intent. The IFC President shall work with the IFC Advisor in contacting the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) for assistance with communicating with inter/national organizations. If inter/national organizations submit Letters of Intent, the IFC President will work with the IFC Advisor to coordinate with the inter/national organizations and coordinate possible expansion efforts.
- B. Inter/national Fraternity Colonization: If an inter/national fraternity petitions to join the IFC, a Letter of Intent shall be sent to the IFC President.
- C. Student Interest Group Colonization: A group of enrolled students at Middle Tennessee State University may choose to form a chapter that is affiliated with an inter/national organization and may seek membership in the IFC as a result of that affiliation. The group of interested students shall submit a Letter of Intent that includes a Letter of Endorsement from the inter/national organization.

### **Section III. Letter of Intent**

A Letter of Intent shall consist of information pertinent to educating the fraternity community on the inter/national organization, including:

- A. Overview of the Fraternity's History, Mission, and Values;
- B. Summary of the Colonization Plan, including: outline of the colonization timeline, inter/national and/or local support, and contact information; and

Upon receipt of the Letter of Intent, the IFC President shall notify the IFC General Body of the inter/national fraternity's intent and the process by which the inter/national organization intends to colonize. The IFC General Body reserves the right to conduct a formal vote and approve or deny expansion requests

#### **Section IV. Granting of Associate Member Status**

Associate Membership grants the Member Fraternity all rights, privileges, and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, except that it does not have voting privileges, cannot hold IFC Executive Board positions, nor have an IFC Judicial Committee Justice. The IFC General Body reserves the right to conduct a formal vote and approve or deny associate member status requests. The period of Associate Member status shall last no more than 2 years and six months, beginning with the colonization date of the Associate Member Fraternity. Failure to charter within this window shall result in the removal of Associate Member Status from the colony by the Interfraternity Council.

#### **Section V. Granting of Full Member Status**

Upon chartering with its inter/national organization, the Associate Member Fraternity shall become a full member of the IFC with all rights privileges and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE XII – RECRUITMENT POLICY**

#### **Section I. Recruitment Philosophy**

The IFC supports open recruitment and believes a man shall be free to join a Member Fraternity at a time that is mutually beneficial to both himself and the Member Fraternity. To this end, the IFC shall not establish policies that inhibit men from participating in recruitment activities and joining Member Fraternities.

#### **Section III. IFC Sponsored Recruitment**

Under the guidance of the IFC Vice President of Membership, the IFC shall designate periods of time during each semester when the IFC will assist Member Fraternities by advertising their recruitment events, hosting campus-wide recruitment events, and educating potential new members on the fraternity community.

The IFC Vice President of Membership shall solicit and maintain a potential new member roster, which shall be a roster of men interested in fraternity recruitment, and shall make that list available to each Member Fraternity.

#### **Section IV. Year-Round Recruitment**

Member fraternities are encouraged to participate in year-round recruitment and shall establish recruitment practices and timelines as determined to best serve that Member Fraternity.

#### **Section V. Member Fraternity Recruitment**

Each Member Fraternity shall develop recruitment materials and execute events and activities that meet the following guidelines:

- A. Values-based;
- B. Alcohol-free and illegal substance-free;
- C. Generally in good taste;
- D. Not derogatory, degrading, or slanderous; and
- E. No women may participate in recruitment activities.
- F. Events may not be held during Customs Sessions
- G. Recruitment infractions shall carry the following fines:
  - a. First infraction per semester will result in a \$500 fine
  - b. Second infraction per semester will result in a \$1000 fine
  - c. Any further infractions shall result in referral to the IFC Judicial Board

#### **Section VI. Bidding**

Each Member Fraternity shall reserve the right to extend a bid as long as the following rules and policies have been met:

- A. For a Potential New Member who has yet to establish a collegiate grade point average, a minimum cumulative high school grade point average of 2.50 is required.
- B. For a Potential New Member who has an established collegiate grade point average, a minimum cumulative collegiate grade point average of 2.50 is required.
- C. Grade release forms have been submitted to and signed off on by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life
  - a. Grade release forms must be submitted prior to bids being extended. Failure to do so will result in a \$15 fine per bid extended without a prior grade release form.
- D. MTSU classes are in session. Bids may not be extended at any time when classes are not in session (class sessions are determined by university's academic calendar).
- E. Each potential new member shall reserve the right to accept or decline any bid at any time without any penalty or pressure placed upon the potential new member.
- F. Bids will be extended to a PNM after or on the day of the designated IFC Bid Day in the fall semester.

#### **Section VII. Report of New Members**

Each Member Fraternity shall submit a New Member Roster to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life within one week of the acceptance of a bid by any New Member

#### **Section VIII. New Member Disassociation / De-pledging**

A New Member shall reserve the right to disassociate / de-pledge from the new member

process of any Member Fraternity at any time and may accept a bid from another Member Fraternity at any time following that disassociation / de-pledging.

Any fraternity found trying to persuade potential new members to not join another fraternity shall be referred to the IFC Judicial Board.

No Member Fraternity shall initiate communication with a new member or member of another Member Fraternity about disassociation / de-pledging in order to become a new member or member of their own Member Fraternity.

### **ARTICLE XIII – SOCIAL POLICY**

#### **Section 1: General Regulations**

- A. IFC members are required to follow the Guidelines for Social Activities as outlined in the MTSU Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook.
- B. IFC adopts, as its official policy, the NIC Alcohol & Drug Guidelines. All organizations must follow the policies outlined in the NIC Alcohol & Drug Guidelines and their own international/national fraternity. If there is a discrepancy in policy, the fraternity must follow the most stringent policy.

### **ARTICLE XIII – PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

#### **Section I. Publication and Distribution of Constitution and Bylaws**

The IFC's current Constitution and Bylaws shall be published on the IFC website.

An updated copy of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws will be electronically distributed to each Member Fraternity after any amendment is adopted.

### **ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS**

#### **Section I. Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended by a three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) affirmative vote of the IFC General Body provided notice of the proposed amendment has provided to Member Fraternities at the preceding regularly scheduled business meeting.

#### **Section II. Adoption**

These Bylaws shall become effective and shall supersede all previous Bylaws of the IFC when adopted by a three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) affirmative vote of the IFC General Body.