

SUNY CORTLAND INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL -- CONSTITUTION

**MISSION**

We, the Interfraternity Council at SUNY Cortland set forth this Constitution and Bylaws in order to bring about closer working relationships and coordination among its member fraternities and SUNY Cortland, in accordance with the policies and standards established by SUNY Cortland, the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) and each member Organization with College policies and standards taking precedence should there be a discrepancy.

**ARTICLE I -- NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the SUNY Cortland Interfraternity Council (IFC).

**ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE**

The purpose of the IFC shall be to:

1. Provide governance structure for its Member Fraternities;
2. Promote the interests of its Member Fraternities;
3. Promote the interests of men's fraternities in general;
4. Discuss questions of mutual interest and present appropriate recommendations to its Member Fraternities for potential action;
5. Promote the interests of SUNY Cortland;
6. Promote mutual cooperation between its Member Fraternities;
7. Promote mutual cooperation between the IFC, fellow governing councils, and student organizations at SUNY Cortland; and
8. Promote mutual cooperation between the IFC and SUNY Cortland, its students, faculty, staff, and local community

**ARTICLE III -- MEMBERSHIP**

**Section I. Membership Eligibility**

Membership in the IFC is open to chapters and colonies of all recognized fraternities at SUNY Cortland as follows:

1. Any chapter or colony of a North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) member organization is required to hold membership on the IFC.
  - a. Exception is to be made for any chapter or colony with 3 members or less; This organization may choose to hold membership on the IFC
2. Any chapter or colony of an inter/national fraternity, which is not a member of NIC and has more than 5 active brothers, may hold membership ~~in~~ on the IFC.
3. Any chapter or colony of any social fraternity recognized by SUNY Cortland.
4. All individual Council members must be currently matriculated SUNY Cortland students.

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

The membership classification of Member Fraternities shall be as follows:

1. Full Member: Any fraternity chapter which has obtained its charter from their 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. Associate Membership grants the Member Fraternity all rights, privileges, and responsibilities under the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, except that it cannot hold IFC Executive Board positions.
  - a. Exception to be made for any Member Fraternity that has remained in colony status for at least 2 semesters; These long-term colonies will be accepted as Full Members

For the purpose of this Constitution and the IFC Bylaws, both Full Members and Associate Members are 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, and other applicable IFC, NIC, etc. policies;
  - b. The rules and regulations of SUNY Cortland; and
  - c. The general values-based conduct of fraternity men.
2. Each Member Fraternity shall maintain a minimum annual cumulative GPA of 2.70.
  - a. Any Member Fraternity that does not meet this criteria will be termed to be in Poor Standing (see Section IV below)
3. Each Member Fraternity shall be current on all IFC dues owed.
  - a. Any Member Fraternity that is more than 7 days late with dues payment will be termed to be in Poor Standing (see Section IV below).
4. Each Member Fraternity shall submit required membership rosters to the SUNY Cortland Greek Advisor within the first week of each semester.
  - a. This information will be shared with the IFC Vice President of Finance once verified as being accurate.
5. Each Member Fraternity shall comply with the attendance policies as outlined within this Constitution.

### **Section IV. Membership Status for Member Fraternities**

The membership status of all Member Fraternities will be determined by the start of each semester per the following criteria:

1. Good Standing: A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be in Good Standing if the Member Fraternity is not currently operating under any IFC and/or SUNY Cortland sanctions, and is currently meeting the minimum expectations outlined in Section II of this Article.
2. Good Standing on Probation: A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be in Good Standing on Probation if the Member Fraternity is currently recognized by SUNY Cortland and operating under any IFC and/or SUNY Cortland sanctions (other than suspension).
3. Poor Standing: A Member Fraternity shall be deemed to be in Poor Standing if the Member Fraternity has been placed on Suspension by the IFC or has currently failed to meet the minimum expectations outlined in Section II of this Article.
  - a. A Member Fraternity in Poor Standing will not be allowed to participate in any social activity sponsored by any SUNY Cortland Greek Council
  - b. Additionally, the Member Fraternity will not be able to hold IFC office or vote on any matter that comes before the Council
4. No standing: Any Member Fraternity that has been placed on suspension by SUNY Cortland is unable to participate in IFC. They may return once the suspension has been lifted.
  - a. IFC membership is not open to any fraternity not recognized by SUNY Cortland.

## **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: Any individual identifying as male who has been initiated into any recognized fraternity at SUNY Cortland and will be counted on that organization's roster of active members for a particular semester
2. New Member: Any individual identifying as male who has accepted an offer to join a recognized fraternity at SUNY Cortland, has completed the necessary SUNY Cortland paperwork, but has not yet been initiated into that fraternity
3. Potential New Member: Any individual identifying as male who has not accepted a bid from any fraternity at SUNY Cortland.

## **Section VI. IFC Affirmation and Adoption of 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 once annually;
2. Each Member Fraternity shall communicate to its Active Members and New/Line Members the importance and benefits derived from continuous membership education throughout the undergraduate experience and encourage or require its Active Members and New/Line Members to participate in educational programming, whether conducted by the chapter, IFC, SUNY Cortland, or independent organizations covering the following topics:
  - a. Academic Achievement and Student Success
  - b. Alcohol and Drug Use and Awareness
  - c. Career Preparation
  - d. Civic Engagement
  - e. Hazing Awareness
  - f. Leadership Development
  - g. Sexual Assault/Abuse Awareness
  - h. Values and Ethics
3. Each Member Fraternity shall only offer bids to join the fraternity to Potential New Members who meet the following academic requirements:
  - a. Must have an established minimum collegiate grade point average of 2.50;
    - i. This requirement is voided if a National organization requires a lesser minimum cumulative grade point average
  - b. Must meet any and all SUNY Cortland requirements
  - c. Must meet the individual organizational requirements of each Member Fraternity
4. Each Member Fraternity shall maintain an annual cumulative grade point average of a 2.70 or be at/or above the SUNY Cortland All Undergraduate Male grade point average if that grade point average is below a 2.70.
5. Each Member Fraternity shall have New/Line Member education programs lasting no longer than twelve weeks. The SUNY Cortland initiation cut-off date will be the last day by which men can be initiated each semester.
  - a. New member education/orientation may not take place over winter or summer breaks

- b. New member education/orientation may not take place over fall or spring breaks unless all new/line members of a Member Fraternity have voluntarily agreed to “attending” a session or two during that time
6. Each Member Fraternity shall prohibit women’s auxiliary groups, such as “little sisters.”
7. Each Member Fraternity shall have and follow risk management policies covering the following areas:
  - a. Alcohol and Drugs
  - b. Hazing
  - c. Sexual Abuse and Harassment
  - d. Fire, Health and Safety
8. Each Member Fraternity shall support open extension, which is defined as the unrestricted establishment and recognition of undergraduate chapters of any NIC Member Organization through the adherence to the constitutional right of Freedom of Association.
9. Each Member Fraternity shall support open recruitment, which is defined as the ability of each Member Fraternity to recruit for membership anyone identifying as male who meets the Inter/national and SUNY Cortland requirements.
10. Each Member Fraternity shall prohibit the use of alcohol and drugs by all Active Members, New/Line Members, and Potential New/Line Members during all recruitment activities.
11. Each Member Fraternity shall prohibit the use of alcohol and drugs by all Active Members and New/Line Members during all New/Line Member educational programming.
12. Each Member Fraternity shall prohibit hazing, as defined by their inter/national organization, SUNY Cortland, New York State and the Federal Government, within all aspects of formal and informal chapter operations.

## **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, 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.

1. Each Member Fraternity shall have one IFC Representative, chosen by that Member Fraternity, who serves on the IFC General Body.
2. Each Member Fraternity may also choose an IFC Alternate Representative, who shall represent the Member Fraternity in the IFC General Body in the absence of its IFC Representative

### **Section III. IFC Representative and Alternate Representative Eligibility**

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

1. Be an Active Member, in good standing, of a Member Fraternity
  - a. Must have at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA and not be on either Academic Warning or Academic Probation
2. Maintain good academic and social standing with SUNY Cortland

- a. Any individual whose cumulative GPA falls below a 2.50 or who is placed on Academic Warning or Academic Probation during their time of office will be required to resign from their position
3. 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 in the Constitution
4. Be available to attend weekly IFC meetings
  - a. These meetings take place Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.
5. Have a working knowledge of the IFC Constitution and Bylaws, SUNY Cortland policies, and NIC Standards, and their Fraternity's risk management policies
6. Not be a current member of the IFC Executive Board
  - a. Exception can be made if the Member Fraternity has 3 or less members and only one member is available to attend regular IFC meetings
7. Any Member Fraternity Representative or Alternate Representative will not be able to maintain his office if his organization is placed on suspension by SUNY Cortland and/or loses recognition from SUNY Cortland.
8. In the event of a vacancy it shall be the responsibility of that Member Fraternity to elect/select a replacement within ten days of when the vacancy occurred.
  - a. The IFC Secretary, IFC President and IFC advisor are to be notified as to who the replacement(s) will be.

#### **Section IV. Term of Office for IFC Representatives**

The term of office for IFC Representatives shall be a minimum of one semester but can extend longer under the procedures determined by each Member Fraternity; or upon his election to serve on the IFC Executive Board. Each representative is intended to serve for an entire academic year.

#### **Section V. 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 must be present to constitute a quorum in order to conduct IFC General Body business
3. The IFC General Body shall typically meet once a week during the academic year
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.
5. Each Member Fraternity's IFC Representative or Alternate Representative is required to attend all meetings of the IFC. More than two absences per semester shall result in the Member Fraternity being asked to replace their Representative.

#### **Section VI. General Body Voting Policies**

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

1. Each Member Fraternity, in good standing, shall have one vote.
2. Individuals holding IFC Executive Board positions are not entitled to a vote.
3. In the event of a tie, the IFC President shall cast the deciding vote.
4. With the exception of the election of IFC Executive Board positions, there shall be no secret ballot votes.
  - a. It should be noted that Executive Board positions are filled by each Member Fraternity on a rotating basis rather than by IFC elections.

## **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. The IFC Executive Board shall be composed of the following positions with duties and responsibilities outlined within the IFC Bylaws:

1. President
2. Administrative Vice President/Fundraising
3. Vice President of Finance
4. Secretary
5. Vice President of Academic Success
6. Vice President of Community Relations
7. Vice President of Member Development

### **Section II. 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
  - a. Must meet their National's requirement for academic good standing, no exceptions are to be made
2. Maintain good academic and social standing with SUNY Cortland
  - a. Must have at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA
  - b. Cannot be on Academic Warning or Academic Probation
3. Be devoted to the general ideals and principles of fraternity life and conduct themselves 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, SUNY Cortland policies, NIC Standards, and their Fraternity's risk management policies.
5. Not currently serve as their Member Fraternity's IFC Representative or Alternate Representative.
6. Must complete whatever training sessions may be needed and required.
  - a. Individuals serving as IFC President, Secretary and/or VP of Finance must schedule a separate training session with the Council's advisor;
    - i. Ideally this training session would take place within the first week of the semester in which an individual takes office

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

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 must be present to constitute a quorum in order to conduct IFC Executive Board business.
3. At the very least, the IFC Executive Board should meet once at the start of each semester to discuss goals and expectations for the upcoming semester
  - a. Additional meetings could be added at the start of full Council meetings as needed
  - b. Meaning that full IFC meetings could be delayed until a given time to be decided
    - i. With current meetings scheduled to start at 7 pm, this could push back the full Council meeting time to 7:15 or 7:20 or 7:30 pm
4. 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 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.
  - a. Even a large number of excused absences may result in removal from office as it could negatively impact the forward progress of the Council

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

The IFC Executive Board shall operate using the following voting procedures during the IFC Executive Board meetings:

1. Each IFC Executive Board member shall have one vote.
2. The IFC President cannot vote except in the event of a tie when he shall cast the deciding vote.
3. There shall be no secret ballot votes.

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

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

1. All offices shall be held in rotation by each Member Fraternity. Each chapter will elect/select the brother they feel is best suited to holding the position(s) for which the chapter is responsible to fill. While beneficial, prior experience serving on IFC is not required in order to be eligible for office.
2. All officers will serve for one academic year. A copy of the rotation cycle will be attached to the IFC Bylaws.
3. Any Member Fraternity with less than 4 brothers may provide an officer but is not required to do so.
  - a. If a Member Fraternity declines to provide an officer, the position will revert to another chapter per an equitable rotation pattern.
  - b. The one exception will be in the case of the VP for Finances as that office will be held by the SUNY Cortland "Greek Advisor" should the need arise.
4. Officers for the upcoming academic year are to be elected/selected prior to the final IFC meeting of the academic year prior.
5. Any individual serving in an IFC Executive Board position may be removed from his position by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the IFC General Body.
6. Any individual whose cumulative GPA falls below a 2.50 or who is placed on Academic Warning or Academic Probation during their time of office will be required to resign from their position
7. An officer will not be able to maintain his office if his organization is placed on suspension by SUNY Cortland and/or loses recognition from SUNY Cortland. A similar restriction would apply to any Member Fraternity Representative or Alternate Representative.
8. In the event of a vacancy it shall be the responsibility of that Member Fraternity to elect/select a replacement within ten days of when the vacancy occurred.
  - a. The IFC Secretary and President are to be notified as to who the replacement(s) will be. All appropriate contact information will be provided.

## **ARTICLE VI – IFC COMMITTEES**

### **Section I. Standing Committees**

At this point in time the IFC will not have any standing committees so as to encourage and promote the General Body's involvement in all aspects of the IFC.

## **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 agreement of the majority of the IFC Executive Board.

## **Section III. IFC Committee Meeting Policies**

All committees of the IFC shall conduct 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 need to be present and shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct committee business.
3. Each committee shall meet as called by its committee chair.
4. Each committee shall keep records of the business at hand and report on them to the IFC on a regular basis so as to be able to entered into the IFC meeting minutes

## **Section IV. IFC Committee Membership Makeup**

1. All committees shall consist of a mixture of initiated fraternity members who serve on IFC and Member Fraternity members who do not serve on IFC
  - a. Membership on each committee shall be comprised of as close to equal representation of all Member Fraternities as possible

## **ARTICLE VII. ADVISOR**

The Associate Director for Campus Activities and Greek Affairs, informally known as the SUNY Cortland Greek Advisor, shall serve as advisor to the SUNY Cortland Interfraternity Council.

## **ARTICLE VIII. VIOLATIONS**

Violations of any regulations of this Constitution or its related Bylaws, etc. shall be the occasion for following established SUNY Cortland procedures. The IFC President and the Greek Advisor would work together to gather information and to consider how to hold an individual(s) and/or Member Fraternity accountable for violating IFC policies.

1. There may be times when a letter of apology and/or financial compensation (fines) would be an appropriate sanction.

## **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds 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.

1. This Constitution shall become effective and shall supersede all previous IFC Constitutions when adopted by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the IFC General Body.
2. At the very least, the governing documents of this Council are to be reviewed for possible updates every two years.