

# WHITMAN COLLEGE

## CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

Revised March 20, 2017

### PREAMBLE

We the Interfraternity Council of Whitman College, henceforth known as IFC, in order to faithfully serve the Greek organizations that we represent, establish policy to foster kinship among our constituents, preserve and expand upon their indisputable rights of self-governance, and to uphold and promote the high standards of the fraternities of Whitman College, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

### ARTICLE I - IFC

#### Section 1 - Purpose

The purpose of IFC shall be to protect and exercise the fraternities' right to meaningful self-governance, ensure compliance with College regulations within the fraternity system, and to promote the Greek system in the best interest of its members and Whitman College.

#### Section 2 - Powers

IFC, in order to carry out its purpose and to best represent the fraternities of Whitman College, shall have the following powers:

##### A. Legislative

1. The power to pass legislation which will be binding in its authority to regulate all interfraternity matters

##### B. Representative

1. The power to represent the fraternity system to the faculty, staff, and administration of Whitman College and surrounding community in matters that affect the fraternity system as a whole
2. The power to advocate on behalf of the fraternity system on interfraternity matters

##### C. Disciplinary

1. The power to enforce legislation such as the social policy and the rush rules
2. The power to regulate all interfraternal matters agreed upon by IFC and the Greek Leaders
3. The power to enforce IFC governing doctrine

##### D. Solicit Membership Dues

1. The power to solicit a fee from the active members and pledges of each chartered fraternity

### ARTICLE II - Membership & Composition

#### Section 1 - Membership

A. Membership in IFC is open to all active members of the chartered fraternities of Whitman College

B. Membership in IFC will not be denied or restricted on the basis of gender, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity, disability status, age, veterans status,

marital status, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, HIV/AIDS status, or any other basis prohibited by applicable federal, state, or local laws, or by official Whitman College Policy.

## Section 2 - Composition

IFC shall be composed of officers and chapter representatives

A. The IFC officers shall be composed individuals selected from among the chartered fraternities by the outgoing IFC as delineated in the By-laws (Article I, Section 3)

1. The powers and responsibilities of each of the officer positions shall be defined in the By-laws (Article I, Section 1)

B. One chapter representative shall be selected by each of the chartered fraternities from among the active members of each fraternity.

1. The powers and responsibilities of the chapter representatives shall be defined in the By-laws (Article I, Section 2)

C. All officers will be awarded an honorarium as an award for their service at the end of each semester as stipulated in the By-laws (Article IV)

## ARTICLE III - Voting

### Section 1 - Quorum

A. Quorum is met when at least two-thirds of all IFC members and at least one member of each chartered fraternity is present.

### Section 2 – Distribution of Votes

A. In order to maintain equal representation between each of the chartered fraternities, each chartered fraternity will be entitled to one vote. If there are multiple individuals representing a chartered fraternity, that fraternity's vote will be agreed upon by a majority vote of the IFC members from that fraternity who are present at the time of the vote.

1. The President shall vote in the event of a tie.

### Section 3 - Scope of Voting

The scope of IFC voting shall include:

A. Amendments to this Constitution

B. Amendments to the IFC By-laws

C. Passing of legislation such as the social policy, and rush rules

D. Decisions of responsibility for infractions of this Constitution

E. Decisions of responsibility for infractions of the IFC By-laws

F. Sanctions to be imposed upon members of IFC

G. Other matters deemed necessary by the President

### Section 4 - Required Majority

A. All decisions made by IFC shall be imposed by a simple majority vote except in the case of decisions regarding:

1. Amendments to this Constitution as per Article IV

2. Responsibility for infractions of IFC governing doctrine as delineated in the By-laws (Article V, Section 3)
3. Impeachment as delineated in the By-laws (Article 1, Section 4)

#### ARTICLE IV - Amendments

##### Section. 1 - Constitutional Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be adopted by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the chapter representatives in consultation with the President of each respective chartered fraternity and IFC.

#### BY-LAWS OF THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

Revised March 20, 2017

#### ARTICLE I - IFC Structure

##### Section. 1 - Officer Duties

###### A. The President shall:

1. Preside over all meetings and related activities
2. Act in an executive capacity in all matters affecting IFC as a whole
3. Set the meeting times and agendas
4. Make proposals, such as the slate and other IFC initiatives
5. Communicate votes and IFC decisions to the chapter Presidents
6. Act as a liaison between Panhellenic and IFC
7. Represent the fraternity system to the College administration, staff, and faculty
8. Attend regularly scheduled Greek Leaders meetings.
9. Meet regularly with the Greek Advisor
10. Lead in conducting rush with the officers of IFC
11. Distribute the IFC Constitution to all new chapter Presidents and to all members of IFC
12. Be a signatory on the IFC bank account
13. Own and update a centralized means of communication for IFC
14. Oversee the distribution of funds from the brotherhood fund

###### B. The Vice-President shall:

1. Work with the Panhellenic VP Judicial to enforce the Social Policy
2. Preside at meetings in the absence of the IFC President
3. Oversee and administer the rush process
4. Serve as the main point of contact for the social chairs
5. Oversee Social Circus, a means of Social Communication, and the Social Calendar
6. Enforce the Social Policy
7. Have the power to make clerical changes to this constitution and by-laws with unanimous approval of the chapter presidents

###### C. The Treasurer(s) shall:

1. Keep records of all transactions and be responsible for financial matters involving IFC
2. Be a signatory on the IFC bank account

3. Assess and collect fees, penalties, and dues in accordance with these By-laws
  4. Pay the IFC honorariums in accordance with these By-laws
  5. Pay scholarships to individual(s) awarded scholarship money from the brotherhood fund
  6. Maintain a list of the cost of pledge and active dues for all the fraternities.
  7. Assist the Vice-President in the administration of rush
- D. The Greek Relations Officer(s) shall:
1. Work with Panhellenic to organize and execute Greekend
  2. Organize, encourage, and facilitate all fraternity and all Greek philanthropy events
  3. Put on at least one Barbecue at the commencement and termination of the rush process
  4. In a timely manner, communicate the meaning and implications of legislation and the Constitution to each chapter
  5. Investigate and act on issues of vandalism or disrespect between the chapters
  6. Assist the Vice-President in the administration of rush
- E. The Community Relations Officer(s) shall:
1. Communicate with the Residence Life Staff
  2. Communicate with student groups on campus
  3. Work with the Panhellenic VP Communications
  4. Respond to concerns from the greater Whitman and Walla Walla communities
  5. Organize Greek "Town Halls" to facilitate discussions about Greek Life as deemed necessary by the IFC and Panhellenic Presidents
  6. Assist the Vice-President in the administration of rush
- F. The Logistics Officer(s) Shall:
1. Take minutes at all IFC meetings
  2. Assist the President or other officers in any task the President deems necessary
  3. Assist the Vice-President in the administration of rush
- G. The Diversity and Inclusion Officer(s) shall:
1. Serve as an assistant in leading Rush with the Vice-President
  2. Be a voice within IFC for diversity and inclusion
  3. Oversee the brotherhood fund along with the Treasurer and the President
  4. Meet with relevant campus leaders to discuss diversity and inclusion in the fraternity community
- H. Expectations for all IFC officers
1. Uphold a high personal standard throughout their time at Whitman
  2. Hold themselves to a high standard of behavior and of posts on social media.
  3. IFC members are encouraged to have a presence at Greek events, including all-campus parties, paired functions, and any sanctioned events. They should also assist houses if sober roamers, bartenders, or ID checkers are needed

## Section. 2 - Chapter Representative Duties

- A. Each chapter shall have one representative on IFC who shall be responsible for
1. Voting on matters that come before IFC on behalf of a single chartered fraternity and carrying
  2. the weight of the majority opinion of all IFC officers from that fraternity
- Attend all meetings of IFC
- B. Expectations for all IFC Chapter Representatives

1. Uphold a high personal standard throughout their time at Whitman.
2. Hold themselves to a high standard of behavior and of posts on social media
3. IFC members are encouraged to have a presence at Greek events, including all-campus parties, paired functions, and any sanctioned events. They should also assist houses if sober roamers or bartenders are needed

#### Section. 3 - Appointment

- A. Officers shall be selected from the chartered fraternities
- B. Positions shall be selected by slating
- C. Each officer shall serve a term of one calendar year unless an exception is needed (i.e. study abroad students)
- D. Slating
  1. Slating shall be completed by the end of Fall Semester each year, for the following year's term
  2. The IFC President shall make applications available to the IFC officers and representatives who shall solicit applicants from the chartered fraternities
    - i. The deadline shall be no less than one week from the date of distribution
  3. IFC shall conduct interviews of all applicants and adopt a slate by majority vote for approval by the current term's chapter Presidents. The slate shall pair exactly one person with each position as specified in Article I, Section 1 of these By-laws
- E. Chapter representatives for the following year must be selected by each individual chapter by the end of the Fall semester each year. Names and contact information for each representative must be provided to the incoming IFC President by this time.
- F. Chapter Presidents, on behalf of their chapter, may challenge the slate in part or in whole.
  1. Only men who completed an application and interviewed for a position are eligible to be on the slate or added as a challenge to the slate. If a position is challenged, the chapter Presidents will elect one of the candidates and then vote to either approve or delete the remainder of the slate. Positions that were challenged as well as the entire slate must pass by a majority vote of the chapter Presidents. In the case of a tie, the current IFC President shall cast the deciding vote.

#### Section. 4 - Impeachment and Vacancies

- A. Officers may be impeached from IFC for any worthy offense by a two-thirds vote of IFC and a majority vote of the chartered fraternity Presidents.
- B. The IFC President may be impeached from IFC for any worthy offense by a three-fourths vote of IFC and a majority vote of the fraternity Presidents.
- C. If any of the IFC officers do not return to their positions for any reason including impeachment, an interim officer will be chosen in the same manner as the original officer to serve for the remainder of the calendar year.
  1. In the case of a vacancy in the position of the President, the Vice President shall assume the position of President and a new Vice President shall be selected
- D. Chapter representatives may be impeached in accordance with the procedures and practices of the fraternity that they represent by the fraternity that they represent. Chapter representatives may also be impeached by a majority vote of the chapter presidents.

E. If any of the chapter representatives of IFC do not return to their positions for any reason including impeachment, the fraternity of which the representative was a member will have the opportunity to appoint a replacement.

#### Section. 5 - Chartering of New Chapters

A. The total membership of the petitioning group shall submit a petition for recognition to IFC.

B. IFC shall carefully review the decisions of the Student Life Committee regarding the group and other information as available and as requested.

C. The IFC shall then make the decision of whether or not to grant the petitioning group probationary status based upon its investigation.

1. A unanimous vote of the Council shall be necessary to grant the petitioning group's request for probationary status.

D. Based upon the committee's investigation and decision, IFC shall make its decision known to the Dean of Students.

E. The petitioning group will then be on a probationary status for one year. After completing the year of probation (in which they will be expected to comply with all IFC rules and regulations unless otherwise exempted), the new group will become a full, chartered member of IFC.

### ARTICLE II - Meetings and Attendance

#### Section 1. - Meetings

A. Regular meetings shall be held at the discretion of the President.

1. Meetings will be held weekly except by majority vote of the IFC

2. Meetings with chapter representatives will be held at the discretion of the President.

B. Special meetings may be called by any officer or chapter representative on IFC upon the request of any member of his fraternity and with approval from the President.

C. Robert's Rules of Order may be followed at all meetings at the discretion of the President.

D. Quorum must be met at each IFC meeting

E. A majority vote is required to adjourn a meeting

#### Section 2. - Attendance

A. All IFC officers and chapter representatives are required to attend all IFC meetings and may attend Greek Leaders Training.

B. All IFC officers and chapter representatives are required to attend any other meetings that the President or Vice President may require of them.

C. Any absence from any required meeting is unexcused unless otherwise noted by the IFC President.

1. Except in the most extreme of circumstances the IFC President must be given 24 hours' notice to grant an excused absence

2. The President or Vice President may only be excused by a majority vote of IFC

D. A member of IFC may be subject to impeachment upon receiving three or more unexcused absences

1. Unexcused absences may include but are not limited to:

i. Complete absence from a meeting

ii. Significant absence from a meeting

iii. Inability to perform duty during a meeting because of intoxication

2. An IFC member may be subject to impeachment, denial of honorarium, or other sanctions as a result of receiving three or more unexcused absences.

E. There is no limit on excused absences.

#### ARTICLE III - Finances

##### Section 1. - IFC Active Member Fee

A. IFC shall collect \$8.00 per member from each fraternity once during each semester.

1. Expenses incurred by IFC, not covered by IFC monies, shall be met by a special assessment of the chapter representatives of the chartered fraternities.

##### Section 2. - IFC Pledge Fee

A. A pledge fee of \$6.00 per pledge shall be collected by IFC from each fraternity. This money shall be collected for pledges from both the spring and fall semesters on the first meeting of the third week in October and on the first IFC meeting of the third week in February.

#### ARTICLE IV - Honorarium

##### Section. 1 - Purpose

A. In recognition of the time and effort required to serve as a officer on the IFC, and in addition to the importance of the fulfillment of the duties of each position and the need to attract talented leaders, an honorarium shall be awarded to each officer at the end of each semester.

B. The honorarium is not intended to compensate officers for hours spent working for the IFC, but rather as a token of appreciation and in acknowledgment of dedication to the fraternity system.

##### Section. 2 - Amount

A. The honorarium shall be \$50 per officer per semester.

B. Any amendments to the amount of the honorarium shall not take effect until the subsequent slate takes office.

#### ARTICLE V - IFC Judicial Policies

##### Section. 1 - Scope of IFC Judicial Action

A. IFC shall have judicial authority in three domains:

1. Internal

i. IFC may take judicial action within IFC in perusing impeachment or other lesser sanctions against a member of IFC under IFC governing doctrine.

2. Interfraternal

ii. IFC may arbitrate judicial action between chartered fraternities under the IFC Statement of Judicial Intent (Appendix I) and other controlling IFC governing doctrine.

3. Individual

iii. IFC may take judicial action against an individual member of a chartered fraternity under the policies and procedures of that individual's chartered fraternity.

B. The following are violations of IFC policy and as such IFC may exercise its judicial authority under any or all of its domains of judicial authority to address these violations:

1. Failure to perform duty of an IFC member may result in
  - i. Denial of honorarium
  - ii. Impeachment
2. Physical and/or mental abuse of any person on fraternity property or at fraternity-sponsored or supervised functions or conduct, which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any such person.
3. Theft or damage of property of a fraternity or member of the fraternity or fraternity visitor.
4. Unauthorized entry to, or use of, fraternity facilities by members of another fraternity.
5. Disorderly conduct, or lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct or expression by members of one fraternity on the property of another fraternity.
6. Violation of the IFC legislation such as the rush rules and the social policy.
  - i. These regulations shall be published annually in a separate document and made available to all fraternities and new students.

#### Section. 2 - Arbitrational Structure

A. The President shall preside over all judicial hearings except in instances where he is directly involved in the case

1. In this case IFC would elect a chairman by majority vote.

B. All chapter representatives must be present at the hearing.

1. These representatives along with the IFC President will compose the arbitrational body of IFC.

C. Each fraternity involved in a complaint shall also have their IFC officer(s), chapter President, and any individual member(s) involved present at the hearing. An adviser may be present at the discretion of each chartered fraternity. The adviser may not speak for the group; he/she is there only to advise the chapter representatives.

D. A Dean of Students designee may be present at the discretion of IFC, as a nonparticipating observer during hearings. This right shall not extend to cases in which he/she is a party in the case.

E. The IFC shall, in considering all cases of infractions of fraternity regulations, safeguard the rights of an accused fraternity or fraternity member(s), establish the framework of facts, rule on responsibility or non-responsibility, and assign sanctions for proven violation of IFC policy. The accused shall be presumed to be not responsible until proven responsible.

#### Section. 3 - Judicial Procedure

A. All infractions involving rush policy violations must be reported in writing to the IFC within ten class days of their occurrence. There is no time limit on the reporting of other infractions.

B. All other infractions must be reported to IFC in writing.

C. The IFC member(s), fraternity(s), or fraternity member(s) shall be informed in writing of the nature of the charge(s) and shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours to prepare a defense.

D. The Chairman will start the hearing by stating the charge(s) (violations of IFC governing doctrine), and he will summarize the nature of the complaint.

E. The complaint will address IFC and describe the complaint.

- F. The respondent will then address IFC and describe the defense.
- G. The complainant will then present evidence which will come before the group one piece at a time. Witnesses will be asked to present their information. Anyone can ask a question of the witness to gather more information or to clarify a point.
- H. The respondent will then present evidence which will come before the group one piece at a time. Witnesses will be asked to present their information. Anyone can ask a question of the witness to gather more information or to clarify a point.
- I. The Chairman will ask for closing remarks from the complainant. Five minutes shall be allotted for the complainant to speak.
- J. The Chairman will ask for closing remarks from the respondent. Five minutes shall be allotted for the respondent to speak.
- K. The arbitrational body of IFC will conduct a closed deliberation and will decide responsibility by a two-thirds majority vote.
- L. The arbitrational body of IFC will conduct a closed deliberation and will decide sanctions if applicable by a simple majority vote except in the case of impeachment where the By-laws hold sway
  - 1. Sanctions will conform to any and all specifications delineated in any and all controlling IFC governing doctrine
- M. The parties will be informed in writing of the verdict within two (2) class days of the hearing.

#### Section. 4 - Appeal

- A. A fraternity or individual who wishes to appeal a decision made by the IFC may take their case to the Dean of Students, at their discretion. The Dean of Students reserves the right to impose further sanctions as they see fit.
- B. The Dean of Students will act to ensure that College rules and regulations are upheld and that the organizations were treated fairly, considering IFC's authority, procedure, and judicial process in the decision. The authority hearing the appeal may accept the IFC ruling, refer the case back to IFC for reconsideration, or, in extreme cases, reject the ruling entirely and dismiss the case.
- C. Sanctions imposed for infractions of IFC rush rules will be considered special cases. Appeal of these decisions will be considered in writing by the Dean of the Students only.

## Appendix I: IFC STATEMENT OF JUDICIAL INTENT

In order to faithfully serve the Greek organizations that IFC represents, and in order to uphold the tenets of the IFC Constitution, By-laws, and other controlling IFC governing doctrine, IFC reaffirms its commitment to enforcing and upholding the standards set forth in all of its governing doctrine. Through judicial action IFC seeks to rectify and limit confrontation and maintain kinship between the chartered fraternities of Whitman College. IFC believes that negative interfraternal confrontations are damaging to the entire fraternity system, to its image among members of the greater campus community, and to the mission of Greek Life at Whitman College.

IFC has a responsibility to assume a leadership role in fostering a sense of common purpose and brotherhood among all members of the fraternity system and to eliminate those practices which are damaging to the fraternity system. To this end, IFC will assume the responsibility for adjudicating those matters that arise between fraternities within the limits afforded by college policy, as well as by local, state, and federal law. IFC reaffirms that each fraternity has the inherent right to determine how members of other fraternities shall conduct themselves while on its property, and that each fraternity has the right for redress of violations of its rights from a judicial body that is solely concerned with fraternity affairs and the welfare of the fraternity system as a whole. Additionally the actions of an individual reflect upon the entire Greek system. Therefore, each fraternity will be held responsible for the discipline of its own members.

Finally, IFC hopes to instill in each fraternity member an understanding of that sense of responsibility that IFC believes each fraternity member should feel towards all members of the Greek system and that each member will come to respect the rights of his interfraternal brothers as much as he does the rights of his own chapter's members.