

# **Constitution of the Interfraternity Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

## **ARTICLE I Name of Organization**

The name of this organization shall be the Interfraternity Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## **ARTICLE II Terms and Abbreviations**

- A. MIT – Abbreviation for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- B. IFC – Abbreviation for the Interfraternity Council of MIT
- C. Petitioning Group – A group that is seeking admission to the IFC
- D. Associate Member – A member of the IFC that is in its initial period
- E. Probationary Member – A member of the IFC that has completed its initial period and has entered its probationary period
- F. Full Member – A member of the IFC that has been granted full membership
- G. IFC Executive Committee – The Committee consisting of the officers of the IFC
- H. IFC Presidents' Council – The primary legislative body of the IFC
- I. Living Group – Any group established MIT that provides housing to MIT students
- J. FSILG – Abbreviation for Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups
- K. New Member – A new member of an IFC member organization – i.e. a pledge

## **ARTICLE III Preamble**

Fraternities provide MIT students with non-dormitory living options, a sense of community, and many other tangible and non-tangible benefits. The IFC is herein created to provide for the longevity of its constituent groups by acting as a collective voice for Fraternities, facilitating the survival and improvement of each Fraternity as well as the Fraternity system as a whole, and promoting positive Fraternity relations with MIT, the communities of Boston, Cambridge, and Brookline, and within the Fraternities themselves.

## **ARTICLE IV Purpose of Organization**

- A. The purpose of this organization shall be:
  - 1. To uphold the Preamble.

2. To assist in providing a total educational experience for the IFC community by emphasizing and acting as a resource to support academics, community participation, and responsibility.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Membership**

- A. Members of the IFC shall be the MIT Fraternities established according to the procedures outlined in V.C.
  1. Any member of the IFC shall retain its membership status upon ratification of this Constitution, if it chooses.
  2. A Living Group that is a member of another Living Group Association (i.e. Panhellenic Association, Living Group Council, Dormitory Council) may seek membership in the IFC by following the procedures in V.C. The Living Group should have a compelling reason to seek dual membership.
- B. All members of each IFC member organization shall be MIT students. A member organization may restrict its membership further, but may not allow non-MIT students to become members.
  1. A member organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.
- C. Procedure for recognition of new groups
  1. A national organization seeking to establish a presence at MIT shall meet with the Presidents' Council and the MIT administration before engaging in recruitment activities.
  2. A Petitioning Group shall submit to the IFC Executive Committee a request for membership in the IFC. This petition should include:
    - a. Affiliation – the national fraternity it is seeking to colonize at MIT or the local fraternity it is seeking to establish.
    - b. Purpose – the purpose of the group, a brief history of it and its national organization (if applicable), its founding principles, and any information that distinguishes it from other members of the IFC.
    - c. Constitution – a document outlining the organization, structure, and guidelines for the organization.
    - d. Pledge of No Hazing – the Petitioning Group must submit a declaration that it will not engaging in hazing as defined by MIT policies, local, state, and federal law, and this Constitution and any supporting documents as described in XI.
  3. When a Petitioning Group submits the petition outlined in V.C.1, the IFC President shall appoint an Expansion Committee to assist the Petitioning Group in becoming an Associate Member of IFC.
  4. The Presidents' Council may, by a majority vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, admit a Petitioning Group as an Associate Member of the IFC.

- a. If the Petitioning Group gains admittance to the IFC as an Associate Member, it will enter an initial period set by the Presidents' Council but not to be less than one year. During this initial period the Associate Member will be scrutinized by the IFC.
  - b. The Expansion Committee will provide assistance to the Associate Member in becoming a Probationary Member of IFC. The Expansion Committee shall make regular reports to the Presidents' Council on the progress of the Associate Member.
  - c. Associate Members shall be non-voting members of IFC and shall pay one-half of the dues paid by Full and Probationary Members.
  - d. Probationary Members shall follow all rules and regulations of the IFC outlined by this Constitution and any supporting documents in XI.
  - e. Associate Members shall be required to submit a report to the Presidents' Council at the beginning of each academic term containing the following information:
    - i. Financial Statement – a statement of the financial situation of the group.
    - ii. Officers – a list of all current officers of the group.
    - iii. Membership – a list of all members of the group.
    - iv. Activities – a list and description of all activities it has held and is planning to hold during the upcoming academic term.
  - f. The Presidents' Council may, by a majority vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, suspend or expel an Associate Member from the IFC.
  - g. If the Presidents' Council denies admittance as an Associate Member to a Petitioning Group, the Petitioning Group may not petition for membership again for at least three months.
5. After an Associate Member has finished its initial period, the Presidents' Council may, by a three-fourths vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, admit the Associate Member to the IFC as a Probationary Member.
- a. In order to gain status as a Probationary Member, an Associate Member must have secured a charter from its national organization (if applicable) and must be recognized by MIT.
  - b. If the Associate Member gains admittance to the IFC as a Probationary Member, it will enter a probationary period set by the Presidents' Council but not to be less than one academic term. During this probationary period the Probationary Member will be scrutinized by the IFC.
  - c. Probationary Members shall be voting members of the IFC and shall pay full dues.
  - d. Probationary Members shall follow all rules and regulations of the IFC outlined by this Constitution and any supporting documents in XI.
  - e. Probationary Members shall be required to submit a report to the Presidents' Council at the beginning of each academic term containing the same information as outlined in IV.C.3.d.
  - f. The Presidents' Council may, by a majority vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, suspend or expel a Probationary Member from the IFC.
  - g. If the Presidents' Council denies admittance as a Probationary Member, the Associate Member may not petition for Probationary Member status for at least three months.

6. After a Probationary Member has finished its probationary period, the Presidents' Council may, by a majority vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, grant full membership to the IFC.
  - a. Full Members shall be voting members of the IFC and shall pay full dues.
  - b. Full Members shall follow all rules and regulations of the IFC outlined by this Constitution and any supporting documents in XI.
  - c. The Presidents' Council may, by a three-fourths vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, suspend or expel a Full Member from the IFC.

#### D. Loss of Membership

1. If a member of the IFC loses recognition from MIT, it automatically loses its membership in the IFC.
2. Violation of this Constitution or other documents as given in XI, or failure to pay dues may result in suspension or expulsion from the IFC.
3. The Judicial Committee may effect the suspension or expulsion of a member of the IFC.
4. Suspended or expelled groups lose recruitment and voting rights for the period of suspension or expulsion.
5. Motions to the Presidents' Council to suspend or expel a member of the IFC must be submitted to the Presidents' Council at least two weeks in advance of the meeting where the vote to suspend or expel will occur.
6. Any group that loses its membership in the IFC must petition the IFC as a new group to gain re-admittance to the IFC.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Presidents' Council**

#### A. Membership

1. All members of the Executive Committee shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Presidents' Council.
2. Each member of the IFC shall be entitled to one representative at each meeting of the Presidents' Council.

#### B. The Presidents' Council shall act as the legislative body of the IFC. Its duties and responsibilities shall include:

1. Approving new members into the IFC.
2. Formulating and approving all regulations that are necessary to fulfill the purposes of the IFC.
3. Electing the members of the Executive Committee.
4. Approving ad-hoc appointments of the IFC Executive Committee.
5. Approving an annual budget to be presented by the second meeting of the Presidents' Council in the spring academic term.

#### C. Meetings

1. Regular meetings of the Presidents' Council shall occur at least monthly during the fall and spring academic terms as determined by the Executive Committee.
2. Special meetings of the Presidents' Council may be called by a majority vote of the Executive Committee or by a petition of one-fourth of the voting members of the IFC.
3. The time and location of meetings of the Presidents' Council shall be announced at least one week in advance of the meeting.
4. Quorum at meetings of the Presidents' Council shall be two-thirds of the voting members of the IFC.
5. All meetings of the Presidents' Council shall follow parliamentary procedure given by the latest edition of Roberts' Rules of Order.
6. If a member of the IFC fails to send a representative to two consecutive meetings of the Presidents' Council it shall lose voting rights until it has sent a representative to two consecutive meetings of the Presidents' Council.

#### D. Voting

1. Each voting member of the IFC shall be entitled to one vote on matters brought before the Presidents' Council.
2. Proxies for votes shall be allowed at the discretion of the President.
3. A roll call vote will be granted at the request of a voting representative to the Presidents' Council except on elections.

#### E. Legislation and Types of Votes

1. Bills, which are designed to be temporary directives to the IFC, the Executive Committee, and/or other standing and ad-hoc committees, shall require a majority vote of all present and voting members of the Presidents' Council at a meeting of the Presidents' Council.
2. Amendments to and ratification of documents as described in XI shall follow the procedures given in XI.
4. Ratification of the annual budget shall require a three-fourths vote of all present and voting members of the Presidents' Council at a meeting of the Presidents' Council.
5. Approval of new members to the IFC or approving the suspension or expulsion of a member of the IFC shall follow the procedures given in V.C.
6. Approval of members of the Executive Committee shall follow the procedures given in VII.C
7. Approval of ad-hoc appointments shall require a majority vote of the present and voting members of the Presidents' Council at a meeting of the Presidents' Council.

## **ARTICLE VII** **Delegates' Council**

#### A. Membership

1. All members of the Executive Committee shall serve as ex-officio members of the Delegates' Council.

2. Each member of the IFC shall be entitled to one Delegate at each meeting of the Delegates' Council. No more than two Delegates from a single member of the IFC shall attend any single meeting.

**B. Purpose**

1. To facilitate communication between IFC members and the IFC Executive Committee.
2. To involve new members in the processes IFC through discussion of current issues and Institute history, as determined by the Executive Committee.
3. To educate new members about the IFC and other relevant issues.
4. To encourage participation in IFC committees.

**C. Meetings**

1. Regular meetings of the Delegates' Council shall occur every other week as time permits, as determined by the Executive Committee.
2. No meeting of the Delegates' Council shall conflict with a meeting of the Presidents' Council.
3. The time and location of meetings of the Delegates' Council shall be announced at least one week in advance of the meeting.

**D. Duties and responsibilities of Delegates**

1. Delegates shall discuss with their chapters the issues discussed in meetings of the Delegates' Council, and shall bring to the next meeting of the Delegates' Council the opinions raised in the chapter discussion.
2. Delegates shall attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Delegates' Council, or send a proxy in their place.
3. Delegates at the end of the spring academic term shall remain Delegates until the second meeting of the Delegates' Council after the end of the official fall recruitment period.
4. A Delegate shall serve a term of approximately one year, out of phase with the elections schedule of the Executive Committee. Where this conflicts with D.3, D.3 shall take precedence.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Executive Committee**

**A. Membership**

1. The Executive Committee shall consist only of the President, Vice President, Executive Assistant, Risk Manager, Recruitment Chair, Judicial Committee Chair, and Program Development Chair.
2. Members of the Executive Committee shall also be members of a Fraternity that is a member of the IFC.
3. The Executive Committee shall be chaired by the President, who shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee, except in the case of a tie vote.
4. The Judicial Committee Chair shall act as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

5. A member of the Executive Committee may not act as a representative of his fraternity at meetings of the Presidents' Council.
  6. The term of office for members of the Executive Committee shall be one year.
- B. The Executive Committee shall act as the executive body of the IFC. Its duties and responsibilities shall include:
1. Making recommendations to the Presidents' Council on matters of major concern.
  2. Deciding matters of minor concern.
  3. Preparing and distributing agendas for meetings of the Presidents' Council.
  4. Approving appointments to the committees, except as described in this Constitution and any supporting documents as described in XI.
  5. Establishing ad-hoc committees.
  6. Appointing ad-hoc officers to be confirmed by the Presidents' Council.
- C. Duties of elected officers
1. The President shall:
    - a. Chair the Executive Committee.
    - b. Preside at all meetings of the Presidents' Council.
    - c. Coordinate the affairs and business of the IFC.
    - d. Be responsible for representing the IFC to the MIT administration, faculty, alumni, the communities of Boston, Cambridge, and Brookline, and at all regional conferences.
    - e. Act as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee.
      - i. The President may vote on matters brought before the Executive Committee in the event of a tie.
    - f. Be responsible for the satisfactory performance of members of the Executive Committee.
  2. The Vice President shall:
    - a. Act as the President in the event of absence or removal.
    - b. Act as advisor to the Delegates' Council.
    - c. Coordinate IFC representation in MIT student government organizations.
    - d. Coordinate programs to foster positive relations and provide for the personal development of fraternity members.
    - e. Act as a resource for IFC member organizations with regard to membership development and New Member education.
    - f. Coordinate standing and ad hoc committees.
    - g. Aid the President with his duties as necessary.
  3. The Executive Assistant shall:
    - a. Transcribe minutes of meetings of the Presidents' Council and Executive Committee and deliver them to members in a timely manner.
    - b. Handle all records and correspondence of the IFC.
    - c. Coordinate the applications for awards that are pertinent to the IFC.
    - d. Be responsible for maintaining the IFC web site.
    - e. Submit the IFC budget for approval by the second meeting of the Presidents' Council after entering office.
    - f. Bill and collect dues from members of the IFC.

- g. Manage the financial transactions of the IFC.
  - h. Keep accurate and detailed records of the financial status of the IFC and make regular reports to the Executive Committee.
  - i. Identify, at each meeting of the Executive Committee and Presidents' Council, those members that are overdue on payment of dues, and those members that have lost voting rights or have been suspended as a result of non-payment of dues.
  - j. Act as a resource for IFC member organizations with regard to financial matters.
4. The Risk Manager shall:
- a. Make IFC member organizations aware of and assist them in adhering to IFC risk management guidelines, MIT risk management guidelines and policies, and laws concerning legal liability.
  - b. Help IFC member organizations reduce risks by aiding in the organization of socially responsible events.
  - c. Organize risk management programs for IFC member organizations including alcohol intervention training, legal liability seminars, and CPR training.
  - d. Act as a resource for IFC member organizations with regard to risk management.
5. The Recruitment Chair shall:
- a. Chair the Recruitment Committee.
  - b. Plan, coordinate, and implement recruitment plans as determined by the Recruitment Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Presidents' Council.
  - c. Act as a resource for IFC member organizations with regard to recruitment matters.
  - d. Conduct a recruitment evaluation following the formal recruitment period in the fall academic term.
6. The Judicial Committee Chair shall:
- a. Chair the Judicial Committee.
  - b. Act as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee.
  - c. Coordinate the IFC's judicial and disciplinary actions as defined in the Bylaws of the Judicial Committee and other documents as described in XI.
  - d. Serve as a liaison between the Judicial Committee and the Executive Committee, the Presidents' Council, and the MIT administration.
7. The Program Development Chair shall:
- a. Coordinate the publicity for all IFC-sponsored events.
  - b. Coordinate the production of various publications on behalf of the IFC.
  - c. Coordinate community service projects on behalf of and for the IFC.
  - d. Coordinate programs to foster positive relations between IFC member organizations and between IFC member organizations and the sororities, independent living groups, and other living groups at MIT.
  - e. Coordinate IFC-wide and campus-wide events involving the IFC.

#### D. Election of Officers

1. Elections for Executive Committee officers shall be held in November and shall be announced at least two weeks in advance.
  - a. Officers shall be elected in the following order: President, Vice President, Judicial Committee Chair, Risk Manager, Recruitment Chair, Program Development Chair, Executive Assistant.

2. A nominee for an office must receive a pluralistic majority vote of the Presidents' Council at a meeting of the Presidents' Council to be elected. In the case of a tie, the Presidents' Council shall re-vote. If a tie persists, current members of the Executive Committee shall vote. In the case of another tie, the President shall vote.
3. Newly elected officers shall be installed at the last meeting of the Presidents' Council in the fall academic term.

E. Vacancies

1. If an Executive Committee office becomes vacant between annual elections, the President shall open nominations for that office.
2. Nominations must remain open for at least two weeks.
3. The Presidents' Council shall vote on all nominees for an office at a meeting of the Presidents' Council following the procedures given in VII.C.3.
4. The President may make an appointment to the vacant office to last only until the Presidents' Council has elected a new officer to the vacant office.

- F. Executive Committee officers may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of the present and voting members of the Presidents' Council at a meeting of the Presidents' Council.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Committees**

A. The standing committees of the IFC shall be:

1. Judicial Committee
  - a. The Judicial Committee shall be chaired by the Judicial Committee Chair.
  - b. The Judicial Committee shall act as the judicial body of the IFC.
  - c. The Judicial Committee shall be organized and shall follow the procedures and guidelines given in the Judicial Committee Bylaws and other documents as described in XI.
2. Recruitment Committee
  - a. The Recruitment Committee shall be chaired by the Recruitment Chair.
  - b. The Recruitment Committee shall plan, organize, and facilitate plans for formal IFC recruitment periods as directed by the Recruitment Chair, the Executive Committee, and the Presidents' Council.
  - c. The Recruitment Committee shall be composed of the recruitment chairs from all members of the IFC.
    - i. Each member of the IFC shall have only one voting member on the Recruitment Committee.

B. Ad hoc committees shall be formed at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

1. The chair of an ad hoc committee shall be selected by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Presidents' Council.
  - a. Each elected officer shall be entitled to chair a committee pertinent to his office without the approval of the Presidents' Council.

- C. The chair of each committee shall form the membership of that committee with the approval of the Executive Committee or as described in this Constitution and any supporting documents described in XI.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Dues**

- A. The operating costs of the IFC shall be divided equally among members of the IFC.
  - 1. Associate Members shall pay one-half the dues paid by Full and Probationary Members.
- B. The Executive Assistant shall submit the annual budget to the Presidents' Council for approval by the second meeting of the Presidents' Council after entering office.
- C. Payment of Dues
  - 1. Dues must be paid within thirty days of the approval of the IFC budget by the Presidents' Council.
  - 2. Interest shall accrue on any overdue balance at an annual rate of 18%, compounded daily.
    - a. Interest may be waived by majority vote of the Executive Committee.
  - 3. Failure to pay dues within sixty days of the approval of the IFC budget by the Presidents' Council shall result in loss of voting rights until the full balance owed, including principal and interest, is remitted.
  - 4. Failure to pay dues within one hundred twenty days of the approval of the IFC budget by the Presidents' Council shall result in suspension until the full balance owed, including principal and interest, is remitted.
  - 5. The Executive Assistant shall, at each meeting of the Executive Committee and Presidents' Council, identify those members that are overdue on payment of dues, and those members that have lost voting rights or have been suspended as a result of non-payment of dues.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Documents**

- A. Constitution
  - 1. The Constitution shall lay out the foundation of the IFC, its organization, structure, and membership.
  - 2. The Presidents' Council may, by a three-fourths vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, amend or ratify the Constitution.
- B. Bylaws of the Judicial Committee
  - 1. The Bylaws of the Judicial Committee shall set forth the policies, guidelines, organization, and membership of the Judicial Committee.

2. The Presidents' Council may, by a two-thirds vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, amend or ratify the Bylaws of the Judicial Committee.

C. Risk Management Policy

1. The Risk Management Policy shall set forth the guiding principles for risk management, legal liability, and social responsibility for IFC member organizations. The Judicial Committee shall enforce the provisions of the Risk Management Policy.
2. The Presidents' Council may, by a two-thirds vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, amend or ratify the Risk Management Policy

D. Recruitment Rules

1. The Recruitment Rules shall set forth the rules, guidelines, and policies to which all IFC member organizations must adhere during periods of formal recruitment. The Judicial Committee shall enforce the provisions of the Recruitment Rules.
2. The Recruitment Committee may, by a two-thirds vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Recruitment Committee, amend or ratify the Recruitment Rules.

- E. The Presidents' Council may, by a two-thirds vote of all present and voting members at a meeting of the Presidents' Council, enact other permanent and semi-permanent rules and regulations.

- F. None of the documents listed in XI.B-E may modify or supersede any provision of the Constitution.

- G. Amendments and revisions to any of the documents in XI must be submitted to the Presidents' Council in written form at least two weeks in advance of the meeting of the Presidents' Council where the vote on the amendments or revisions will occur.

1. Amendments to the Recruitment Rules must be submitted to the Recruitment Committee instead of the Presidents' Council following the same guidelines.

- H. If, at any time, the policies and guidelines set forth by any document in XI are in conflict with MIT policies, or federal, state, or local law, the relevant section of the document shall be nullified without affecting the rest of the document. The document should be updated to reflect these changes.