

ESTABLISHING A ALUMNI INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL (Alumni IFC)



A Model Developed by:
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“A successful Greek chapter has four partners: the students, the national office, local alumni, and the college. If any of those four partners is not constructively engaged in the life of the chapter, the group will not survive.”¹

Purpose

Alumni Interfraternity Councils (AIFCs) can play a variety of roles in supporting the fraternity community on a campus. Local alumni, undergraduate chapter leaders, and campus administrators can determine an institution-specific purpose for the Alumni Interfraternity Council.

Students, administrators, and alumni should agree on the purpose and function of the Council to ensure buy-in and establish frequent collaboration.

At their core, AIFCs should

- provide leadership and guidance to local fraternities and the Interfraternity Council;
- educate alumni on major issues facing today’s fraternity, including risk management, housing, recruitment, and interface with the host institution;
- enhance the personal and career development of undergraduate members;
- assist in the recruitment of alumni support for local chapters;
- role model collaboration and communication with college/university administration;
- ensure standards of conduct that respect the mission of the host institution; and,
- provide a vehicle for undergraduate members to learn and appreciate the value of lifelong fraternity engagement.

Alumni Interfraternity Councils also serve their peer constituency, fraternity alumni. The Council should partner with and provide support to house corporations, advisory boards, and alumni associations of local fraternity chapters. The Council should also see college/university administrators as partners in the process of developing a strong interfraternity community.

Membership & Organizational Goals

- An Alumni Interfraternity Council can be made of existing chapter advisors and serve as a network for these volunteers.
- Membership can consist of those alumni involved primarily in housing corporation operations.
- Faculty advisors may be included for a diversity of opinion and improved relationship among faculty constituencies.
- The AIFC may play a purely advisory role and include participation of local fraternity alumni who are not currently involved in chapter advisor or house corporation roles.
- The *ad hoc* involvement of sorority alumnae may be recommended, particularly if current issues on the campus require solutions from both men’s and women’s organizations.
- Undergraduate members should be exposed to the AIFC through the official or informal involvement of IFC officers and/or chapter presidents in a liaison capacity.

¹Paterson, B. G. (2012). White Paper: Collaboration between fraternal organizations and colleges and universities in addressing student conduct issues. Indianapolis, IN: Fraternity Executives Association.

Meetings

- Meet monthly or semesterly meetings with a specific purpose
- Provide advance notice and agendas to remind members of the meetings and positively encourage their attendance
- Use fraternity chapter houses for meetings
- Use campus meeting space to expose alumni to new resources

Suggested Projects

While the purpose and goals of the AIFC should be determined by the local members, the NIC suggests that the following activities and projects would positively benefit both undergraduate and alumni fraternity members.

1. Educational workshops for chapter house corporation members
2. Annual officer workshops for undergraduate leaders
3. Scholarship recognition
4. Legal advice and regular educational programming on social host liability, harm reduction, alcohol use, hazing, and sexual violence
5. Liaison with the college/university alumni office for cooperative programs and events including Homecoming, class reunions, etc.
6. Liaison with the college/university alumni magazine for inclusion of regular fraternity news
7. Annual interfraternity/award banquet for all undergraduate and alumni members
8. Establish and maintain a low-interest loan fund for chapter house renovations
9. Coordinate career development workshops and internship opportunities
10. Assist with senior programming and emphasize lifelong membership
11. Assist with Parents Weekend events
12. Host community service activities with alumni and undergraduates
13. Provide academic achievement workshops on time management, stress, and study habits, perhaps in conjunction with the campus tutoring center
14. Coordinate brotherhood and goal-setting retreats
15. Distribute a newsletter to fraternity alumni
16. Maintain a membership directory of all fraternity alumni
17. Regularly assess the needs and interests of local alumni and undergraduate chapters

**ALUMNI INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL
MODEL CONSTITUTION**
Developed by the North-American Interfraternity Conference

Note: Especially in the initial stages, we suggest that the constitution of a Alumni Interfraternity Council be kept simple.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be Alumni Interfraternity Council (hereafter Council) at (University/College)

ARTICLE II

Purpose

To establish a common ground for the open discussion and coordinated action on such subjects that are of vital importance to the (University/College) and the fraternity community. This body shall have the power to initiate action and to act in an advisory capacity on all questions of mutual interest between fraternities themselves and between fraternities and the (University/College).

ARTICLE III

Scope of Activities

- Section 1. The Council shall serve to:
- a. Act as a nucleus to provide fraternity support for the (University/College) programs of education, expansion, and financial campaigns, and to aid where possible in actions for the mutual benefit of (University/College) and the fraternities.
 - b. Promote the common interest of chapter building corporations in matters pertaining to taxes, insurance, police protection, rental rates and general finances.
 - c. Cooperate in arranging periodic gatherings of all resident fraternity alumni, including faculty, in its area, and in maintaining good public relations in geographical areas in which it is located.
 - d. Conduct such other activities as are consistent with the purposes of this organization.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

- Section 1. Membership in the Council shall consist of all men's social fraternities whose undergraduate chapters are recognized by the (University /College).
- Section 2. Each fraternity shall be entitled to one duly appointed alumni representative and one alternate representative.
- a. Both may attend and participate in any and all meetings of the Council, but the alternate representative shall have power to vote only in the absence of the duly appointed representative.
- Section 3. In the event neither of the two representatives can be present at any meeting, a special delegate with power to vote may be designated in writing addressed by the duly appointed representative to the Secretary of the Council.
- Section 4. A fraternity may change its representative at any time by written notification to the Council.

ARTICLE V

Voting

- Section 1. Each fraternity shall be entitled to only one vote on all matters that may come before the Council.

ARTICLE VI

Organization

- Section 1. The officers of the Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council, act as Chairman of the Executive Committee, and appoint committees with the approval of the Council.
- Section 3. The Vice-President in the absence of the President, shall assume all powers and duties of the President.
- Section 4. The Secretary shall take true and accurate minutes of all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee, prepare the minutes of the said meeting and send copies thereof to all members of

the Council. He shall be responsible for all correspondence and shall give notice of all meetings.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall collect the dues, any special contributions and assessments, make disbursements as authorized by the Executive Committee, prepare any and all budget matters and shall submit a written financial report for each half academic year.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President. Vice- President. Secretary, Treasurer and (x) members-at-large of the Council.

a. This Committee shall carry out the policies of the Council between meetings and shall authorize the disbursement of funds.

b. This Committee shall prepare subject matter for the Council meetings and shall originate subjects in conformity with the purposes of this organization.

ARTICLE VII

Elections

Section 1. The officers shall be nominated and elected for a term of one year at the (December) meeting of the Council and shall be installed at the (February) meeting.

Section 2. The members-at-large of the Executive Committee shall be nominated and elected in three classes of (y) members each, to serve for a term of three years, in such manner that (y) of them shall be chosen at the (December) meeting of the Council, and shall be installed at the (February) meeting.

Section 3. Election shall be by a majority vote at a duly constituted meeting of the Council.

Section 4. No President or member-at-large of the Executive Committee can serve for more than two consecutive terms.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

Section 1. Meetings of the Alumni Interfraternity Council shall be held (bi-monthly). The time and place shall be designated by the President.

- Section 2. Special meetings of the Council shall be called by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee or upon written request to the Secretary by (3 or 5) members of the Council.
- Section 3. At meetings of the Council, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Council in good standing.
- Section 4. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the President or upon written request to the Secretary by (2) members of the Executive Committee.
- Section 5. At meetings of the Executive Committee, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.
- Section 6. Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail at all meetings of the Council or any Committee thereof.

**ARTICLE
IX**

Dues

Each member fraternity shall make an annual contribution of (X dollars), which shall be payable as of the first day of October in each year. Failure to make such contribution as specified shall disqualify such fraternity's representative from voting at meetings of the Council until such indebtedness shall have been paid.

ARTICLE X

Resignation

Any member fraternity may resign from the Council by written notice given to the Secretary.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Council by a two-thirds vote of all members, except that if there shall have been a written notice of the business to come before such meeting, such amendment may be adopted by the concurring vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting, provided that such two-thirds is not less than one-half of the Council membership.