

INDEPENDENT GREEK COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Seeing the need for a diverse representation of Greek-lettered Organizations not affiliated with the existing Greek Councils at Florida International University, and acknowledging that only through the unification and empowerment of all recognized Fraternities and Sororities with the goal of increasing multiculturalism, friendship, unity and representation for each organization in academics, social interaction, service, chapter development, and brotherhood/sisterhood, as well as serving as a resource for these organizations, the members of the Independent Greek Council do hereby adopt this Constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be known as the Independent Greek Council at Florida International University (herein referred to as IGC at FIU).

Article II: PURPOSE

Section 1: The purpose of the IGC is to serve as a resource for those organizations within the Council and will act as an intermediary between organizations and their respective national boards. The Council will not be used for political actions and will only serve as a resource to those organizations within the Council.

Section 2. To promote and foster positive fraternal relations, communication, and development of all fraternal organizations through mutual respect, leadership, honesty, professionalism, and education.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The organizations that are part of the Council are collegiate Greek organizations composed of all people of special interest fraternal organizations. This Council will consider recognizing and supporting those fraternal organizations, under proposal and admission to IGC, that are not affiliated with the existing Greek Councils at FIU. Furthermore, these organizations must comply with the purpose of IGC. The founding organizations of the IGC will be: Alpha Kappa Psi, Phi Alpha Delta, Phi Delta Epsilon, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Theta Tau

Section 2: Membership within this Council shall be open to FIU Officially Recognized Greek Letter Organizations compliant with standard operating procedures by FIU. Chapters must be in accordance with the guiding principles of Fraternity and Sorority Life (Scholarship, Service, Leadership, & Brotherhood/Sisterhood). Chapters joining the council shall meet the following requirements:

1. Have a minimum of a 2.7 cumulative G.P.A.
2. Shall maintain a 2.7 semester G.P.A. to remain in good standing with the Council
3. Must submit an official email requesting membership to the Council

4. Retain a minimum of 10 members to receive appropriate recognition from the Council
- If an organization falls below the minimum number of required members, the Council will assist where needed.

Section 3: Membership of this organization shall be open to any current FIU organization or organization member and will not be restricted based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ethnic origin, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, covered veteran status, or any basis protected by law.

Section 4: Members of each chapter can participate in voting and hold executive positions on the Independent Greek Council.

Section 5: All Chapters must abide by the FIU Fraternity and Sorority Life Intake Policy or Recruitment Policy. Each chapter will also be asked to complete RoadMap monthly as requested by the Center for Fraternity & Sorority Enrichment.

Section 6: All Chapters must follow the drug and alcohol policies laid out by the Center for Fraternity & Sorority Enrichment as well as the Student Code of Conduct along with additional associated policies of FIU.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

Section 1: The FIU IGC shall meet twice monthly at a time and place determined by the Executive Board.

- **Notices:** Notices of the meeting shall be issued no less than 48 hours preceding the meeting and 24 hours preceding special meetings.

Section 2: All IGC meetings shall be open meetings except for any meetings deemed necessary to close at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Section 3: 1 chapter member eligible to vote shall constitute a majority for the transaction of business.

Section 4: The Executive Board may call emergency meetings as deemed necessary by the President.

- Notices: Notices of the emergency meetings shall be made 24 hours preceding the meeting.

Section 5: Meetings and business shall be governed by Robert's Rules Newly Revised Edition except in matters specifically provided for in the Constitution, by-laws, and/or standing rules.

Section 6: Attendance: Failing to attend IGC business meetings will result in the following consequences. (Executive Vice President)

- 1st absence = written warning
- 2nd absence = \$50 fine to chapter

- 3rd absence = \$50 fine + removal of one program during current or following semester
- 4th absence = receives least priority in choosing calendar dates

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1: To be considered eligible for an officer position, potential officers must meet the minimum eligibility requirements of active student membership. All officers of the organization shall possess (at the time of election and during their term) at least the minimum requirements regarding enrollment hours, GPA, academic standing, and financial and disciplinary holds to serve in a leadership position. Officers who do not meet these requirements during their term shall resign or be removed.

Section 2: Officers will be elected at the last Independent Greek Council meeting in November of the Fall semester.

Section 3: All candidates must apply by the prescribed deadline.

Section 4: Candidates may apply for an unlimited number of positions but can only serve in one position on the Executive Board at a time.

Section 5: Only Executive Board Members who have previously held a position are eligible to apply for President.

- If, no members from the Executive Board are eligible or apply, the President will open applications to the general body.

Section 6: Applications will be submitted via PantherConnect and will be checked to ensure that candidates are eligible to hold office. Eligibility is based on the following:

- A. Candidates are in good standing with their chapter.
- B. Meet the 2.7 overall GPA requirement.
- C. Meet the Independent Greek Council requirements.
- D. Be in good standing with the university and free of university holds.

Section 7: Each candidate will give a two-minute speech. If the candidate runs for multiple positions, they will only give a speech pertaining to their preferred position. Following the speeches, a three-minute period will be given. During this time, any chapter may ask questions.

Section 8: After all candidates have given their speeches, each chapter will vote indicating which candidate they are supporting. Each chapter will have **one** vote. Ballots will be counted and tabulated by the current IGC Executive Vice President and the IGC Advisor(s). (Executive Vice President oversee Tellers report)

- A. After the ballots are tabulated, the forum will reconvene, and run-off elections will take place if necessary.

- B. There will be no more than 2 members from the same chapter on the Executive Board at any time.

ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: The Executive Board of the IGC at FIU is composed of the elected officers, and chairs of the standing committees.

- A. The Executive Board must meet prior to general meetings to finalize the agenda for the upcoming meetings, which includes any recommendations for consideration by the general body.
- B. Administer routine business between meetings of the IGC when advisable and such other business has been approved for action by IGC vote.
- C. Report all action taken by the executive board at the next regular meeting of the IGC through the Vice President of Administration and record the action in the minutes of that meeting.

Section 2: A term of office is one year, or until a successor is elected. The president and vice president cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

Section 3: The election of officers will take place at the last general body meeting in November. Officers will be installed and take office at the last general body meeting in Fall.

ARTICLE VII. REMOVAL OF AN OFFICER

Section 1: Any officer who neglects their duties can be removed from office by vote of the council, provided they have been sent the charges in writing. They shall be given the opportunity to be heard in their own defense before the vote is taken on removing them from office.

Section 2: If a vacancy occurs in an elected office, and the remaining term to be served is six months or less, the Executive Board will appoint a replacement. If the remaining term to be served is more than six months, a special election will be held to replace that officer.

Article VIII. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1: The Elected Officers of the Council shall be known as the Executive Board of the Independent Greek Council. Their duties and order of succession are as follows:

Section 2: President: It shall be the duty of the President to:

- Preside over all meetings of the Executive Board and General Body.
- Appoint all committees.
- Be responsible for implementing all decisions of the Executive Board and FIU IGC Bylaws.
- Call special meetings when appropriate.
- Represent the IGC at any meetings with university administrators.

- Ensure that the Council operates in accordance with the FIU IGC Constitution and By-Laws.
- Cast a vote only in the event of a tie.
- Exercise the power of Executive Order in detrimental situations.
- Meet with the FIU IGC Advisor once a week or when deemed necessary by the IGC Advisor.
- Approve in writing all expenditures of the budget.
- Acquire a working knowledge of parliamentary laws and procedure as stated in Robert's Rules of Order.
- Perform any other presidential duties not outlined within these bylaws deemed appropriate by two-thirds of the Executive Board, deemed necessary by the IGC Advisor, or the general body that will benefit the IGC goals and objectives.

Section 3: Executive Vice President: It shall be the duty of the Executive Vice President to:

- Assume the duties of President in their absence or incapacity of the President and perform such other duties as they are assigned.
- Assist the President in planning and implementing council functions such as meetings, fundraisers, socials, and community-service projects.
- Assist the President in overseeing committees by keeping the President current of their progress.
- Perform designated assignments deemed necessary by the President, Advisor, or the general body that will benefit council goals and objectives.
- Maintain a copy of the most current version of the constitution during all Executive Board, general, and special meetings.
- Have a general knowledge of the constitution and general structure of the council.
- Ensure the execution of the constitution and by-laws, and general rules of parliamentary procedure and meeting decorum, as outlined in the most recent edition of **Robert's Rules of Order**.
- Serve as timekeeper during the meetings and officer nominations and elections.
- Research any rule/practice as deemed necessary by the President or general body, by majority vote.
- Regulate the council judicial duties (point system, fines, etc.)
- Chairs Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- Perform designated assignments deemed necessary by the President, Advisor, or the general body that will benefit the council goals and objective

Section 4: Vice President of Administration: It shall be the duty of the Vice President of Administration to:

- Call roll at the beginning of all regular and special meetings.
- Keep a list of all the committees.
- Record minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board and general body meetings.
- Prepare, type, and distribute minutes from each IGC meeting to be approved at the next meeting (regular, Executive Board, and special meetings).
- Maintain and update all member organizations full roster of membership with the IGC Advisor.

- Call the meeting to order in the absence of the President and Executive Vice President.
- Issue all necessary correspondence on behalf of the council with revisions by the President if necessary.
- Responsible for all duties included in revenue and expenditure for the IGC.
- Maintain accurate records of the financial status of the council in the form of financial statements issued by banks, the university, or any other entity in which the council has a vested interest in.
- Provide a copy of all financial statements to the IGC Advisor.
- Submit and present written report at each council meeting.
- Recommend any changes helpful to achieving the council's financial objectives.
- Notify Member Organizations of their semesterly dues and assessments and other financial obligations at each meeting.
- Perform designated assignments deemed necessary by the President, Advisor, or the general body that will benefit the council goals and objectives.

Section 5: Vice President of Programming: It shall be the duty of the Vice President of Programming to:

- Responsible for all duties included in developing and executing all programmatic experiences for the IGC.
- Maintain the yearly calendar of programs of the council
- Provides regular updates to the council during each scheduled meeting.
- Recommends educational experience options to the council for regular programming.
- Chairs the Programming Committee.
- Perform designated assignments deemed necessary by the President, Advisor, or the general body that will benefit the council goals and objectives.

Section 6: VP of Communication and Marketing: It shall be the duty of the VP of Communication and Marketing to:

- Collect and compile historical data pertaining to the council and member organizations.
- Take photos/videos at IGC events.
- Responsible for publicity for IGC events
- Handle all public relations, publications and communications within the IGC
- Be responsible for communication and correspondence with other Greek Councils
- Provide information regarding all relevant campus leadership and involvement opportunities.
- Advertise all IGC sorority and fraternity programs.
- Oversee and creatively operate all social media platforms
- Create social media marketing plans, campaigns and initiatives
- Create content calendar for the year
- Perform designated assignments deemed necessary by the President, Advisor, or the general body that will benefit the council goals and objectives.

ARTICLE IX. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1: Community Service Committee

- Implement at least two joint community service projects to be participated in by the member organizations to be carried out throughout the academic school year.
- Promote all community service events of the Council in flyers, public service announcements, and/or ways deemed necessary by the Council.

Section 2: Programming Committee

- Coordinate IGC week activities each semester.
- Coordinate additional programs each semester that continuously propels the body towards its purpose.
- Coordinate the annual programs
- Promote all programming activities of the Council in flyers, public service announcements, and/or ways deemed necessary by the Council.

Section 3: Constitution and Bylaws Committee

- To revise and update the Constitution and Bylaws to promote a cohesive document for the council.
- To be chaired by the Executive Vice President

ARTICLE X. ADVISOR

Section 1: The IGC Advisor shall be a University employee appointed by the Center for Fraternity & Sorority Enrichment.

Section 2: The advisor shall serve as a mentor to the organization, providing guidance to the officers and members in the development and implementation of programs and activities, as well as FIU policy and procedure. Additionally, the advisor will expenditures of the organization. The advisor has no voting rights. The advisor must be willing to obtain an appropriate level of experience, resource information, and knowledge related to the mission, purpose, and activities of the organization.

ARTICLE XI - STATEMENT ON HAZING

Section 1: Florida International University's Interfraternity Council adopts a zero-tolerance policy on hazing. This policy is considered an extension of Florida International University's anti-hazing policies.

Section 2: Definition of Hazing - Hazing activities are defined as any action or situation created, either directly or through innuendo that jeopardizes the student's psychological, emotional, or physical well-being, regardless of the person's membership status within the chapter or willingness to participate.

i. Examples include but are not limited to:

1. Subtle hazing: behaviors that emphasize a power imbalance between new members/rookies and other members of the group or team. This includes, but is not limited to, physical or mental manipulation or any action which can cause mental duress.

2. Harassment hazing: behaviors that cause emotional anguish or physical discomfort in order to feel like a part of the group. Harassment hazing confuses, frustrates, and causes undue stress for new members/newbies.
3. Violent hazing: behaviors that have the potential to cause physical and/or emotional or psychological harm.
4. Note that the willingness of any individual to participate in any activity does not excuse any hazing violation.

Section 3: IGC will comply with FIU policies and procedures (FIU 2501 Student Conduct and Honor Code) which defines hazing as any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a Student for purposes including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into, affiliation with, or the perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of any Student Organization operating under the sanction of the University or other organization or group not officially recognized by the University. Although hazing is typically related to a person's initiation or admission into, or affiliation with a Student Organization, athletic team (intramural, club or intercollegiate), extracurricular activity or any other University group or organization, it is not necessary to have direct proof that a person's initiation or continued membership is contingent upon participation in the activity for a charge of hazing to be upheld. The actions of active, prospective, former, or associate members (pledges) of a student organization may be considered hazing. Organizational leaders who plan a hazing event will be held Responsible even if not in attendance at an event where the hazing occurs. Hazing does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective."

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These bylaws shall be amended by an affirmative two-thirds vote by the Executive Board.

Section 2: All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board at least 7 days prior to the Executive Board meeting.

Section 3: The Executive Board shall distribute each proposed amendment with its recommendation to the General Body and all affiliate organizations at least 7 days prior to the next Council of Presidents Meeting.

ARTICLE XIII. VIOLATIONS

Section 1: Violations of any regulations of the Constitution or its related Bylaws shall be subject to penalties established by the Council in conformity with those recommended by the Center for Fraternity & Sorority Enrichment.

Section 2: Any dispute arising from violations of IGC rules and regulations shall be mediated with the IGC Advisor, Council and Chapter Presidents.