PREAMBLE

In order to promote and perpetuate the best interest of Mercer University and the Greek-Letter social fraternities therein, to insure cooperation among said fraternities and between them and the university authorities and the community, and to cultivate those qualities of character, cooperation and scholastic achievement in all fraternity members, we do ordain and establish this Constitution of the Interfraternity Council of Mercer University.

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, race, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, handicap in the administration of educational policies, admission policies, financial aid, employment, or any other program or activity.

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be known as the Mercer University Interfraternity Council, hereafter referred to as IFC in this Constitution.

Article II. PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of the Council to:

A. Preside and act as the representative central government of the National Interfraternity Council men’s social fraternities.

B. Provide a forum for discussion of matters of interest and concern among member fraternities.

C. Organize, standardize and regulate the recruitment and associate member activities of the said fraternities.

D. Promote positive interfraternity competition in scholarship, service, athletics, judicial and any other events that may be deemed advisable for the betterment of the participants, fraternities, University and the community.

E. To serve as liaison between the University authorities and both on and off campus organizations in matters of common interest.
Article III. MEMBERSHIP

A. All NIC recognized social fraternities shall hold membership in the Interfraternity Council. The two types of membership in the Interfraternity Council shall be defined as Associate Membership and Full Membership. Associate membership pertains to a Colony; whereas a full membership pertains to chapters who have their charters from a National/International Headquarters and recognized by Mercer University. Established chapters must meet the requirements set forth in the Greek Life Policies.

B. There shall be two (2) classes of membership in the IFC Senate: Regular and Colony.

SECTION I. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate members shall be those groups who do not possess a charter from a national social fraternity, but desire to do so on the campus of Mercer University; also known as a colony. Achievement of colony member status shall also include the following requirements:

A. Approval by both the administration of Mercer University and the IFC Senate.

B. Designation as an official colony of any national social college fraternity if so affiliated

C. Submission of a progress report to the IFC Executive Council during each academic semester of colony member status

Failure to comply with the above criteria may result in suspension of colony member status.

SECTION II. IFC COLONY RIGHTS

A colony may participate in the discussion of all matters before the IFC and may vote but may not have a member hold an office on the IFC Executive Council until they achieve regular member status.

SECTION III. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Regular members shall be those fraternity chapters that possess a charter from a national college social fraternity, and must receive recognition from Mercer University as an approved student organization. Both regular members and colonies must:

A. Be considered in good standing with Mercer University

B. Maintain a minimum of a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale

C. Maintain and prove sound financial management

D. Secure and maintain a Mercer University faculty advisor
E. Abide by all the rules and policies set forth by IFC and Mercer University
F. Submit membership updates each semester to the Director of Campus Life, and must submit individual chapter updates when appropriate
G. Insure that no practices occur which might be considered hazing by federal, state, or local law or by NIC
H. Provide IFC with an updated copy of its constitution and risk management policy to be kept on file

Failure to comply with the above criteria may result in suspension of regular member or colony status.

SECTION IV. FRATERNITY REMOVAL

Any fraternity will be automatically removed from the IFC Senate upon the withdrawal of recognition by the University President. A member fraternity or colony may be removed from the IFC Senate by a unanimous vote of membership of the IFC Executive Council.

ARTICLE IV. WARRANTIES

SECTION I. IFC PURPOSE

The organization's purpose and activities are lawful and supported by the University, NIC, and each inter/national fraternity office.

SECTION II. IFC MEMBERSHIP

The organization's membership is open to all regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, or handicap ability.

SECTION III. POLICIES

The organization agrees to abide by Mercer University's hazing and Recruitment Policies. (See Mercer Greek Life Policies and The Lair for policies.)

ARTICLE V. THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

SECTION I. DUTIES AND MEMBERS OF

The supreme legislative body of the fraternity system at Mercer University shall be the Interfraternity Council, which shall consist of one delegate from each member fraternity to make the IFC senate.

SECTION II. VOTING
A. Each fraternity shall have one (1) vote in the council. Those delegates with chapters holding Associate Membership will not have a vote.

B. When a delegate has an absence, the delegate must send prior notification for their absence to the IFC Secretary to be approved by the IFC President and Greek Advisor. The delegate must also send an alternate delegate to the meeting. The alternate delegate is any member of the fraternity’s active roster of the current semester. The alternate delegate will then be a voting member of the Interfraternity Council for the specified meeting.

SECTION III. MEETING TIMES

A. The Interfraternity Council shall meet once every week during the Fall and Spring semesters with meeting time and place set by the IFC Executive Board as Wednesday’s at 5 PM in the Connell Student Center

B. Special Meetings may be called upon by the IFC President, upon written request by one-fourth (1/4) member vote, or if tabled motions are still tabled and no regular meetings have been held within seven (7) days.

SECTION IV. QUORUM

A quorum shall be two-thirds of the voting membership of the Interfraternity Council.

SECTION V. ATTENDANCE

A. Any official delegate with an absence, which would prohibit his attendance on a regular basis, may register for permission with the Executive Board to appoint a new officially registered delegate for that semester. After being granted such permission, he will be excused as a voting member of the Interfraternity Council.

B. In the event a delegate cannot attend an individual meeting, he must inform the IFC secretary prior to that meeting. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the chapter’s official delegate to designate an alternate delegate.

C. Fraternities, both those of regular and colony status, may miss two (3) IFC Senate meetings per semester. After 3 and ½ absences, the delegate will be removed and assessed $25 fine. By exceeding absences, the delegate may be sanctioned to a hearing with IFC Executive Council to determine removal. If a chapter fails to comply, they will be reported to the Greek Judicial Council.

D. Any unexcused absences, will result in an immediate $25.00 fine assessed to the offending fraternity’s dues.
SECTION VI.  ORDER OF MEETINGS

Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the procedure of all meetings of the Interfraternity Council. In cases where a conflict exists between the Constitution or by-laws and Robert’s Rules of Order, the Constitution and by-laws shall take precedence.

SECTION VII.  PRESIDING OFFICER’S POWER

The presiding officer may cast the determining vote in the event of a tie on the motion requiring a majority vote.

SECTION VIII.  SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meeting of the Interfraternity Council may be called either by the president, four (4) out of six (6) members of the Executive Council, or 1/3 of the Interfraternity Council members, provided that a 24 hour advance notice be given for the meeting.

SECTION IX.  IFC EVENTS

A.  IFC shall participate in at least one (1) philanthropy event per semester.
B.  Member fraternities must have at least two (2) members or twenty percent (20%); whichever is greater present at each event. These members must be initiated and new members.

SECTION X.  FINANCES

A.  Dues:
   1. Each regular and colony chapter must submit a current roster within fourteen (14) days of the first day of class each semester to the Office of Greek Life. Using these rosters, the Treasurer shall calculate dues as follows $10.00 per regular and colony member (initiate or associate member).
   2. Dues are to be paid in full to the IFC Treasurer or Greek Advisor by the second (2) meeting following the billing date.
   3. There will be a $25 fine added to the total for each regular meeting dues are delinquent; and chapters will lose their voting privileges until payment is made.
   4. Chapters needing to create a payment plan must meet with the Treasurer and Greek Advisor before the second (2) meeting following the billing date in order to set one up and avoid a late fine for not having paid on time or in full.
B.  Fines:
   1. Any chapter which misses an event deemed mandatory by the IFC will be fined $25.
   2. A second offense by the same chapter will result in a $50 fine for the second offense.
   3. A third offense will result in a $75 fine on top of the first two fines.
   4. A fourth offense will result in the chapter having a hearing before the Greek Judicial board.
   5. A chapter may present a written request to miss a scheduled mandatory event to the IFC Secretary at least one week prior to the event. Voting members of
the Executive Council will then decide whether or not to honor the request.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS OF THE INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

SECTION I. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

There shall be an Executive Board which shall be the chief administrative and coordinating body of the Interfraternity Council and shall be an initiating legislative body of the Interfraternity Council and shall be responsible to enforce the said rules and establish laws of the organization.

SECTION II. OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

A. The Executive Council shall consist of the following officers:

   1. The six (6) officers of the Interfraternity Council who are elected members are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Judicial Affairs, and Director of Programming.
   2. There will be an Assistant Director of Recruitment underneath the Vice President. This officer will serve as a non-voting member of the executive council.
   3. The IFC Advisor will serve as a non-voting member of the executive council.

SECTION III. OFFICE REELECTIONS

B. Officer Elections shall follow the procedures below:

   1. Elections shall take place during the last meeting of the Fall semester.
   2. Officer installations shall occur in the first (1) week of the Spring semester.
   3. No Fraternity President shall serve as the IFC President or Vice President at the same time.
   4. The IFC President and Vice President must be from different chapters.
   5. No fraternity shall be allowed more than two (2) members on the voting IFC Executive Council.
   6. In the event of a tie vote regarding the election of an officer, the winning candidate will be determined by a vote of the voting member’s of the Executive council, including the President. The candidate who received a majority vote from the voting Executive Council officers will be elected for the position.

SECTION IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD ELIGIBILITY

A. Executive board candidate must be in good standing with his respective chapter.
B. Executive board candidate must have at least a 2.5 GPA
C. Executive board candidate must be enrolled in at least twelve semester hours at Mercer University.
D. Executive board candidate must be able to attend all seminars/conventions put forth by Greek Affairs and NIC, SEIF and/or organize a Mercer campus presentation by an education or leadership speaker.
E. Executive board candidate must be an initiate of a member fraternity for at least
one (1) semester prior to his election as an officer.

F. Any individual choosing to run for IFC President must have held either a voting or non-voting office on the IFC Executive Council during the previous administration. If no member of the previous year’s administration chooses to accept a nomination for IFC President, the floor will be opened up for other nominations from member chapters.

G. All candidates for elected positions in the Interfraternity Council are subject to all academic and Student Code of Conduct of Mercer University.

SECTION V. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Officers of the IFC will consist of:

A. President:
   1. Have overall responsibility for the operation of IFC.
   2. Call and preside at all regular and special meetings of IFC and IFC Executive Board.
   3. Conduct a New Officer/Old Officer Transition Meeting before leaving office
   4. Coordinate goal-setting sessions for the council and Executive Board
   5. Review, approve, and sign, in collaboration with the IFC Treasurer IFC checks and contracts involving IFC finance.
   6. Serve as a member ex-officio at all IFC committee meetings with voice but no vote.
   7. Be knowledgeable of all aspects of IFC and serve as the IFC liaison between the University and NIC.
   8. Work closely with the Greek Affairs Advisor and notify him/her of events, problems, etc, and serve as the contact for IFC issues.
   10. Perform all other duties pertaining to this office.

B. Vice President:
   1. Perform the duties of the president in his absence.
   2. Serve as head of the IFC recruitment team.
   3. Coordinate formal recruitment week (in collaboration with the President, Assistant Director of Recruitment and Greek Advisor) scheduling events, handling recruitment violations (in conjunction with the Director of Judicial Affairs), keep a roster of active members and alumni associated with recruitment.
   4. Work to create press releases when necessary with the university and local media
   5. Work to promote a positive public image of the Mercer University IFC in the media and surrounding campus and community.
   6. Work with the Greek Advisor and other councils to create and promote recruitment materials and other IFC sponsored events.
   7. Perform all other duties pertaining to this office.
   8. Maintain and distribute all information pertaining to membership recruitment.
9. Attend and present at Open House, Preview Days, and Orientations on behalf of IFC and Greek Life.

C. Secretary:
   1. Keep an up-to-date roll of members of IFC (officers and delegates) and member organizations.
   2. Be responsible for all records of member attendance. Keep current rosters, statistics, and information concerning all initiated members and associate members of each member organization.
   3. Keep full minutes of all meetings which must be read and approved by IFC. He must make distribute the minutes to the IFC president, Greek Advisor, IFC records, and IFC delegates within 48 hours of meetings.
   4. Send written notification to any fraternity president whose delegates miss an IFC meeting.
   5. Be responsible for the official correspondence of IFC (all excuse letters or e-mails will be submitted to the Secretary.)
   6. Serve as a Parliamentarian to help the IFC President maintain order in IFC meetings.
   7. Serve as an advisor and "expert" to the IFC Constitution, any amendments must be reviewed by him.
   8. Perform all other duties pertaining to this office.
   9. Attend Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and SGA weekly meetings and serve as the liaison between these organizations and IFC.

D. Treasurer:
   1. Be responsible for the general supervision of the IFC finances. Sign checks for IFC expenses.
   2. Be responsible for the preparation of an annual budget, providing a copy for each member organization.
   3. Receive all payments due to IFC, collect all dues, keep track of all fines and monies owed to IFC, issue invoices and give receipts.
   4. Be responsible for prompt payment of all bills.
   5. Maintain up-to-date financial records and give a finance report at each IFC meeting.
   6. Perform all other duties pertaining to this office.

E. Director of Judicial Affairs
   1. Serve as chairman of the Interfraternity Council’s Judicial Hearing Board.
   2. Serve as a Justice on the Mercer University Judicial Board and assist with the selection and training of all Greek Judicial Hearing Board members.
   4. Serve as part of the Recruitment Team.
   5. Perform all other duties pertaining to this office.

F. Director of Programming:
1. Conduct values-based educational programs (living our ritual, ethics, working as a community based on similar values, etc.) in addition to other life skills, educational programs (Alcohol Abuse, Sexual Assault, time management, etc).
2. Coordinate and keep record of all community service and philanthropic efforts for IFC.
3. Conduct social events for the members of IFC.
4. Recognize all IFC men who achieve Dean’s List or President’s List academic status by putting together a PR statement for the Greek Life website, Vice President of Student Affairs and the Cluster.
5. Provide weekly incentives for IFC men to perform well in class.
6. Organize and run the Chapter of the Month and IFC man of the Month.
7. Work with the Office of Greek Life to Coordinate Risk Management workshops each semester.
8. Serve as the IFC Liaison to SHAPE.
9. Perform all other duties pertaining to this office.

G. Assistant Director of Recruitment: Non-Voting Member of IFC Executive Council
1. Assist and learn from the Vice President all recruitment matters.
2. Assist in the making and distributing of all recruitment PR materials.
3. Work all Preview Days, Orientations, and Move-In events.
4. Keep track of the website for IFC and chapters to make sure all content is updated and appropriate.
5. Perform all other duties pertaining to this office.

SECTION VI. MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council shall hold meetings as deemed necessary by the President.

SECTION VII. REMOVAL OR REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS

A. Any officer may be removed from office administratively, by the IFC Advisor for failure to maintain his minimum GPA requirement or if found responsible for a violation of the student code of conduct.

B. Any officer may be removed from office by the body for a breach of duty or failure to represent the IFC in a positive manner. This must be done by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the members of IFC senate.

C. Removal from office by the IFC body will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Interfraternity Council.

C. If any elected office (except for President) is vacated, a person will be appointed by the President for that office pending approval from the Executive Board and IFC Advisor at the first meeting after the resignation.

E. If the office of President is vacated, then the Vice-President shall assume the office
of President. The chain of command following the Vice-President would be the Secretary, followed by the Treasurer, then the Director of Judicial Affairs, followed by the Director of Programming.

**ARTICLE VII. IFC DELEGATES**

**SECTION I. REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY**

A. A delegate must be an initiated member for on full academic semester prior to office and must be in good standing with his respective chapter.

B. A delegate must have at least a 2.5 GPA.

C. A delegate must be enrolled in at least twelve semester hours at Mercer

**SECTION II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF IFC DELEGATE**

A. Delegate must prepare chapter reports at each IFC meeting.

B. Delegate must serve proficiently as liaison between his respective chapter and IFC, communicating all matters thoroughly.

C. Delegate must bring pressing Greek issues forth to IFC.

D. Delegate must be present at all IFC meetings and mandatory events.

**SECTION III. REMOVAL OR REPLACEMENT OF DELEGATES**

A. Any delegate may be removed from position by the IFC Executive board for failure to maintain his minimum GPA requirement or if found responsible for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

B. Any delegate may be removed from office by IFC Executive Council after missing three (3) meetings and the chapter will receive a $25 fine and must replace the delegate before the next IFC meeting.

**ARTICLE VIII. JUDICIAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**SECTION I. JUDICIAL PROCEDURES**

Cases of violations of the Mercer IFC Constitution or recruitment guidelines will be assessed and dealt with by the IFC Internal Judicial Board and/or Mercer Judicial System when appropriate. For matters relating to Recruitment, the notification of the charge will be given within twenty-four (24) hours of reporting. A hearing with the IFC Judicial board will take place within three (3) days; if there is not a pre-determined sanction within the IFC Recruitment Rules or IFC Constitution. For matters outside of recruitment, normal judicial procedures will be followed with the Mercer Judicial System.

**SECTION II. IFC JUDICIAL BOARD**

A. The IFC Judicial Board will be headed by the IFC Director of Judicial Education and consist of the IFC President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Programming. Each chapter will be represented through their Judicial/Standards chair.
B. The IFC Judicial Board shall convene within 3 days of an allegation of violation of IFC Policies or Recruitment Guidelines to determine responsibility and sanctions outside of those predetermined in the Constitution.

C. When a case is being heard, the alleged chapter will not have their chapter representative on the board, but may sit in on the case.

D. When vote is occurring, any chapters involved may not be present.

E. All allegations must be officially reported to the IFC judicial office and will not be anonymous. Following the initial report, the IFC judicial officer and IFC advisor must receive an email or hard copy detailing the allegations.

SECTION III. IFC JUDICIAL SANCTIONS

A. All recruitment infractions, whether or not there are predetermined sanctions, may be taken through the IFC judicial hearing board and/or Mercer judicial board.

B. Any fraternity caught using alcohol to recruit will be sent to IFC judicial and Mercer University judicial and will face severe sanctions per the outcome of the judicial processes.

C. For any chapter found slander ing another chapter, individual, IFC, Bear Fair, Move-In policies or not following positive contact/relations will be required to submit an apology letter and publicly apologize to those they offended/slandered and will be reviewed for participation in the event in which the polices were broken for the next year.

D. For chapters found “hiding” men from the recruitment process will have their remaining recruitment events cancelled and must wait to give out bids or hold recruitment events until one month after IFC Formal Recruitment Bid Day.

E. For chapters who violate the percentage policy regarding women and/or found to have non-nationally affiliated members other than women or men going through recruitment at their event will be fined $25 per individual they are over or is not supposed to be at the event. This fine must be paid by 12PM EST the following day or the next day’s Recruitment event will be cancelled until the fine has been reconciled.

ARTICLE IX. RATIFICATION

SECTION I. AMENDMENTS

A. Amendments to the Constitution must be presented in writing at a regular or special meeting of the Mercer IFC and but be signed by at least four (4) regular member fraternities (delegate or President).

B. All amendments shall automatically be tabled until the next regular or special meeting of the IFC.

C. If seven (7) days have passed without a regular meeting, a special meeting may be
called for the purpose of voting on the tabled amendment.

D. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of membership is required to pass an amendment.

E. All amendments shall become effective immediately upon their adoption.

SECTION II. CONSTITUTION

This constitution will go into effect upon ratification by a majority vote of IFC. This constitution shall make any previous constitution null and void.