

The 10 Minute Guide to IFC Scholarship

It is your responsibility to oversee the promotion and recognition of academic excellence among member fraternities and individuals. Emphasis should be placed on the development of a continuous scholarship program that will enhance and supplement any member fraternity academic endeavors.

Responsibilities:

The IFC Vice President of Scholarship responsibilities should include a mission or goal statement that encourages high academic achievement for individuals and member fraternities as well as specific programs or tasks that are to be accomplished throughout the term.

- Coordinating a member fraternity scholarship chair orientation program for member fraternities
- Collecting and distributing academic performance rankings
- Maintaining current information for accurate fraternity rosters
- Publishing important academic dates and deadlines
- Collecting and distributing information about campus academic services, tutors, the writing lab, math lab, learning assistance programs, interest tests, career counseling, placement workshops, unique library resources, and many others
- Working individually with scholarship chairs of member fraternities below the all-men's grade point average
- Building and maintaining relationships with faculty, academic offices, and academic honorary societies
- Providing advice and support to member fraternity scholarship chairs
- Finding a faculty member to serve as an academic advisor for the IFC

Scholarship Workshops

The IFC should sponsor a scholarship workshop once each term involving all member fraternity scholarship chairs and new member educators.

The focus of this combined session with scholarship chairs and new member educators should be on effective programming ideas that will better prepare new members for the demands of college academics.

Partnering with academic services staff would be ideal as they would be able to provide the scholarship chairs and new member educators with the most accurate information.

Tutoring Services

The IFC Vice President of Scholarship should identify individuals from all member fraternities willing to tutor and make a list of available tutors for distribution to new member classes. Additionally, any tutoring resources offered by the campus should be marketed.

Academic Support Center Orientation

The IFC should co-sponsor an annual orientation meeting for member fraternity scholarship chairs with the campus academic support center.

The IFC can assist these chairs and provide some structure for scholarship officers to follow, the information should include:

- Sample job descriptions
- Outstanding scholarship programs from member fraternities on campus
- Important academic dates and deadlines
- Listing and giving an explanation of all related campus resources
- Plans outlining goals for the chapter
- Academic data for prior years to be used in benchmarking

After this scholarship chair orientation, allow each chair to develop a specific plan of action. This plan should be shared with the IFC Vice President of Scholarship, IFC Advisor, and the IFC faculty academic advisor.

Resource Directory

Along with the academic support center orientation, a resource directory would be a great way to get out pertinent information to member fraternity scholarship chairs. Campus resources to include in the directory include the following:

- Career planning and placement office
- Testing office
- Counseling services
- Library
- Learning assistance/academic advising (tutors, peer advisors, writing and math labs)

- Faculty advisors (individual fraternity member use)
- Academic deans (grievances, withdrawals, grade changes)
- Campus online resources
- Local tutoring services
- Graduate/professional school preparation information

Incentives

The IFC should recognize individuals within the fraternity community each term. Recipients for awards should include the following:

- Men who earned a 4.0 GPA
- Men who earned a 3.75 GPA or higher
- Men who earned a 3.5 GPA or higher
- Men who made the dean's list
- Member fraternities who have a GPA above the all-men's average
- Improved member fraternity GPA's
- Improved individual GPA's
- Member fraternities who are consistently above the all-men's average

Faculty Members

The IFC Advisor often has more responsibilities than time allows and unfortunately cannot always meet with every need of the fraternity community immediately. Having a faculty member serve as an academic advisor to the IFC can fill an important need.

Recognizing Outstanding Faculty Members:

Individual member fraternities should nominate professors who exhibit high standards and commitment to classroom instructor. Criteria may include the following:

- Innovative classroom instructional techniques
- Creative course assignments and required readings
- Dynamic lectures which challenge students
- Availability outside classroom for individual or group assistance
- Dedication to current research and information for classroom use

Faculty awards may take on many forms such as:

- Recognition at an all campus awards program or reception during Greek Week
- Recipients could be presented with a small plaque or framed certificate
- The IFC could make a monetary donation to the library for the purchase of books in the faculty members field dedicated to the faculty member

Scholarship Policy

The IFC should have a written scholarship policy which includes minimum standards for member fraternities, specific incentives and sanctions for performance below these standards, and is in alignment with the NIC Standards.

An IFC scholarship policy can take the following forms:

- 2.7 minimum grade point standard for member fraternities to maintain full IFC recognition
- 2.5 minimum grade point standard to be eligible for fraternity membership
- Member fraternity grade point averages equal to or greater than the all-men's average to receive awards recognition
- Member fraternities submit a written scholarship program to the IFC and Fraternity/Sorority Life Office
- Member fraternities below the all-men's average meet with the IFC scholarship committee and faculty or administrative representatives to discuss methods for improvement

Calendar Planning

The IFC calendar should be given to all member fraternity presidents and representatives and provided at any orientation or training program sponsored by the IFC. Important dates to include on the IFC calendar include:

- Scholarship due dates for departmental and university wide scholarships
- Financial aid due dates – priority registration, the date to accept awards, when to turn in the FASFA, etc
- Last day to add a class
- Last day to drop a class
- Last day to change grades from pass/fail
- Pre-registration dates
- Academic advising times
- Early fee payments
- Midterms
- Final exam week