
Role of the IFC

The North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), through its President & CEO, takes a position on each of the critical issues within the fraternity industry.

The evolution of the campus interfraternal council has been one that has taken various shapes at individual institutions. It is the position of the NIC that an Interfraternity Council (IFC) should be formed on any campus where two or more NIC member fraternities have a chapter. The IFC should support the educational mission of the institution, promote fraternity on campus, and create an environment that is conducive to the success of its member chapters. The NIC provides direct support to IFC officers and councils in order to help them fulfill their responsibilities as the representative body of fraternity men on a campus.

The role of the IFC mirrors, in many ways, the role of the NIC toward its member fraternities. Where the NIC seeks to advocate through collaboration and education on an international level, the IFC must act as the voice of the fraternity movement on the individual campus.

Advocacy: The IFC constitutes the representative body of student leaders working on behalf of all member fraternities. The IFC must show a commitment to advocating for the fraternity movement and for each member within the campus community.

Rationale: The IFC is the only student organization on campus that has as its members the individual chapters of men's fraternities. The IFC should take necessary steps to ensure chapter compliance with NIC Standards, national and international policies, and the IFC constitution.

Collaboration: In order to create the most positive environment for fraternity growth the IFC must take advantage of partnerships and forge alliances on campus. While other interfraternal umbrella groups are natural allies, the administrative partnerships can ultimately be the most valuable for the Council.

Rationale: Natural partners could include, but are not limited to the local Panhellenic Council, NPHC, NALFO, and MGC. The IFC must take the time to cultivate and maintain these relationships and work toward community planning for the Greek system on the individual campus.

It is also important for the IFC to maintain close relationships with Fraternity / Sorority Life Office, Residence Life, New Student Orientation, Admissions, and the offices of the Vice President of Student Affairs as well the College/University President. These relationships are important to establish the IFC as the primary advocacy group on campus and to ensure timely communication and effective partnerships.

Education: The NIC believes that the council should realize the potential they have to educate member chapters about the NIC Standards, risk management guidelines, institutional policies, and local law. These continuing education opportunities, and the distribution of best-practices among council members, should be a benefit to membership in the IFC.

Rationale: While programming opportunities are important, the role of the IFC as an educator must be seen as more than just a programming board. When new issues face the fraternity community on campus the IFC must be on the forefront of being able to accurately represent their member organization and ensure that information is being distributed. Additionally, when issues arise that affect the ability of fraternities to operate successfully (poor academic performance, hazing, alcohol abuse) the IFC should consider educational means to address these issues and work towards their mitigation.

NIC Standards: The campus IFC should partner with inter/national fraternities in implementing the NIC Standards. In 2013 the NIC House of Delegates passed an updated set of minimum requirements for all NIC member organizations. At the local level, IFC is responsible for helping to implement and enforce NIC standards within the campus community. Below are several of the standards that regularly affect IFC operations. The NIC Standards can be found in their entirety on the NIC website.

Expansion: Open expansion policies should be regularly communicated and enforced by the IFC. NIC member chapters are expected to support other fraternities in their efforts to grow the number of fraternity men on campus.

Recruitment: Open recruitment policies, minimum eligibility standards for membership, and alcohol-free recruitment and new member education processes are important to maintain a values-based fraternity experience on campus. The IFC should work through marketing efforts to communicate eligibility requirements for membership; promote the fraternity experience; and ensure that there are no restrictive policies in place that create additional barriers to the process of joining. Additionally, IFC should work with chapters to create recruitment plans that remove alcohol from the recruitment and new member education process.

Education: IFC should exhibit leadership in providing and coordinating educational opportunities for the interfraternal and broader university community in areas that are of importance to fraternity members and the student body as a whole. Focus areas can include, but are not limited to: academic achievement and student success, career preparation, civic engagement, leadership development, sexual assault prevention, hazing prevention, and alcohol and drug use prevention.

Data Collection: The IFC should regularly collect data related to the fraternity experience on campus. Men pledged, initiated, and their retention, as well as comparative data between fraternity men and non-fraternity men related to graduate rates, retention percentage, and hiring after graduation are all important statistics to be able to effectively communicate the value of fraternity membership to non members to assist IFC members in their own efforts to improve.

Accountability: As the governing body for campus fraternities, the IFC should establish and hold members accountable to a code of conduct that is reflective of shared community values, NIC Standards, and the student code of conduct. With the assistance and support of the institution, IFC should develop a fair judicial process that will adjudicate alleged violations of community expectations and policy by member chapters. IFC judicial processes must provide for due process. Any sanctions as a result of adjudication should be productive and educational in that they are focused on addressing the specific behavior(s) that led to the violation.



POSITION STATEMENT

Marketing: The IFC is the chief marketer of the fraternity experience on campus. Efforts to promote joining and to show the value of the fraternity experience are critical to providing a benefit to membership in the council. Additional marketing resources can be found at www.fraternityinfo.com.

IFC Support and Services: To assist IFC officers in the ongoing development of their council, the NIC provides direct staff support and resources through the IFC Chartering initiative. Chartered councils receive free resources that will aid in officer transition, goal setting, understanding officer roles and responsibilities, council assessment, and consultative services for individual officers, the executive board, as well as the council. IFC officers are also encouraged to attend IFC Academy, which is a one day training and development program focused on skills, resources, and knowledge necessary to maximize success as an officer and council.