FRATERNITY COUNCIL
At the
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CONSTITUTION

We the members of the Fraternity Council of the University of South Carolina at Columbia, to establish greater cooperation among the fraternities, seek solutions to our common problems, and to assist each other in obtaining our educational objectives, do hereby establish this constitution as the law of the Fraternity Council.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be known as the Fraternity Council of the University of South Carolina at Columbia, and shall hereafter be known as Fraternity Council.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

SECTION 1:
The purpose of Fraternity Council shall be:
A. The promotion of relationships that are conducive to the general preservation of the fraternity system at the University of South Carolina.
B. The improvement of the fraternity experience and helping the fraternity system to remain acceptable and relevant to student life as it changes on our campus.
C. The assistance to any fraternity in the accomplishment of its goals or activities when such assistance is considered appropriate.
D. To provide programs and activities, both developmental and social, for all member organizations to improve their functioning and to provide common experiences that encourage cooperation and unity among organizations.
E. Provide and act as a central government for the fraternities.
F. Set rules and regulate rush and the pledging process for the fraternities.
G. Institute policies and rules that will maintain the purpose of the Fraternity Council.
ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1:
Membership:
A. Shall consist of any national college fraternal organization (NPHC and NIC) in good standing with the University of South Carolina and Fraternity Council.
B. Fraternity Council shall be limited to persons officially connected with the University of South Carolina-Columbia as faculty, staff, or full-time students. Students enrolled in the spring semester under the above conditions who have pre-registered for the fall semester, as well as students enrolled in summer classes, as eligible for summer membership.
C. Fraternity Council shall not be limited to persons based on their race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status. It is the policy of the University that an individual’s sexual orientation be treated in the same manner.

SECTION 2:
The membership classes in Fraternity Council shall consist of:
A. Voting Member
   A fraternity that has been recognized by the University and Fraternity Council, that has fulfilled the stipulations and criteria stated in the current Greek Expansion Guidelines (U.S.C. Fraternity Council By-Laws Article VII).
B. Associate Member
   A recolonized and/or new Fraternity chapter (interest groups, colonies, etc.) that seek membership in the Fraternity Council must meet the criteria set forth in the current Greek Expansion Guidelines (U.S.C. Fraternity Council By-Laws Article VII) to gain Fraternity Council recognition.

SECTION 3:
Voting members are eligible to:
A. Receive rights and privileges this constitution and Fraternity Council By-Laws provide.
B. Receive coverage on par with any other member in all Fraternity Council publications that list or describe member fraternities.
C. Vote at meetings of the Fraternity Council.
D. Have their chapter members, as they are eligible, to hold elective and appointive offices of the Fraternity Council.
SECTION 4:
Voting members are required to:
A. Pay all dues and fees owed to the Fraternity Council.
B. Obey this constitution, by-laws, and all regulations adopted by Fraternity Council.
C. Cooperate in any proceedings of the Judicial Board with which it may be involved and abide by all Judicial Board rulings affecting it.
D. Cooperate with all administrative actions of the Executive Board.
E. Abide by all University regulations and policies.
F. Encourage scholarships and leadership among its members.
G. Attend weekly Fraternity Council meetings.

SECTION 5:
Associate members are eligible to:
A. Participate in selected Fraternity Council sponsored programs.
B. Express their opinions and report business at any and all Fraternity Council meetings, but have no vote.

SECTION 6:
Associate members are required to:
A. Pay all dues and fees owed to the Fraternity Council.
B. Obey this constitution, by-laws, and all regulations adopted by Fraternity Council.
C. Cooperate in any proceedings of the Judicial Board with which it may be involved and abide by all Judicial Board rulings affecting it.
D. Cooperate with all administrative actions of the Executive Board.
E. Abide by all university regulations and policies.
F. Encourage scholarship and leadership among its members.
G. Attend weekly Fraternity Council meetings.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP STANDING

SECTION 1:
A member is in good standing with Fraternity Council when:
A. Voting Member has fulfilled Article III, Section IV.
B. Associate Member has fulfilled Article III, Section VI.
SECTION 2:
A member may lose good standing when:
   A. A Voting Member has been found guilty of violating any part of Article III, Section IV.
   B. An Associate Member has been found guilty of violating any part of Article III, Section VI.

SECTION 3:
A member that loses its good standing could be expelled from Fraternity Council or loose some or all of their rights granted by this constitution and Fraternity Council By-Laws.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND DUTIES

SECTION 1:
Elected Officers members will include: President, Vice President of Judicial Board, Vice President of NIC, Vice President of NPHC, Treasurer, and Secretary.

SECTION 2:
Election procedures shall consist of the following:
   A. Elected candidates must receive fifty-one (51) percent support of the entire voting council. If fifty one percent is not achieved on the first ballot, a run-off will occur between the two candidates with the most votes on the first ballot.
   B. Men that are defeated in their initial attempt at election shall be eligible to run for another office.
   C. A chapter may run candidates for any and all of the positions on the Executive Board. However, no more than two members from any chapter may serve as an Executive Officer.
   D. A quorum (2/3 of Council membership) must be present in order to hold a valid vote or election.
   E. Nominees must be aware of their nomination.
   F. A member may nominate himself.
   G. Nominations shall consist of two rounds, the first occurring during the next to last regularly scheduled meeting in November, and the second and final round shall occur during the last regularly scheduled meeting in November.
SECTION 3:
Terms of Office:
A. Officers will serve one-year terms from January through December.
B. A new officer will be elected by the voting members on the last scheduled meeting in November.
C. The new officers shall take their positions during the first scheduled meeting in January.

SECTION 4:
The eligibility requirements for Fraternity Council Officers shall fall into two categories:
A. To be eligible for a Fraternity Council Executive Board position an individual must:
   1. Be a full time student.
   2. Be in good academic standing with the university and have a 2.4 cumulative GPA.
   3. Any student seeking to hold or holding office must maintain the cumulative GPR requirement for graduation and remain in good standing in their respective college.
   4. Be an initiated and active member of a recognized chapter in good standing.
   5. Have Fraternity Council experience either through a previous Fraternity Council position (chairman/representative) or experience with the Executive Board of his own chapter.

B. In order to retain a Fraternity Council Executive Board position members must:
   1. Maintain full-time student status at the university.
   2. Maintain good academic standing with the university.
   3. Perform his duties to an acceptable level.
   4. Belong to a chapter in good standing with the University of South Carolina and the Fraternity Council.

SECTION 5:
Voting rights of executive members:
A. Executive Board members will hold no regular voting privileges for the entirety of their term. (Including elections, legislation, etc.)
B. In a situation of a vote ending as a tie, the Executive Board, with the exception of the President, will each cast a vote to break the tie.
SECTION 6:
Duties of Fraternity Council Officers:

A. The President shall:
   1. Preside over all Fraternity Council meetings.
   2. Appoint all committee chairpersons and create new committees.
   3. Nominate a faculty advisor, to be approved by the voting members.
   4. Communicate with and assist all Chapter Presidents.
   5. Develop an understanding and knowledge of the Fraternity Council and By-Laws.
   6. Execute constitution, by-laws, and other amendments to their fullest capacity.
   7. Create an understanding of the issues surrounding Greek Life at the University of South Carolina.
   8. Act as the spokesman for Fraternity Council.
   9. To convene the Fraternity Council special session and to call meetings of the Executive committee.
   10. Deliver a semesterly report in writing to the Director of Greek Life as an evaluation of his term to be given to his successor.

B. The Vice President of NIC shall:
   1. Oversee the expansion activities of the Fraternity Council and co-chair the Expansion committee.
   2. Report the progress of all recognized colonies to the Fraternity Council during its regularly scheduled meetings.
   3. Coordinate, in conjunction with the VP of NPHC, all Rush events including, but not limited to fall, spring, and summer Rush programs for the Fraternity Council.
   4. Coordinate, in conjunction with the VP of NPHC, a Fraternity Council information table during the dates of summer orientation.
   5. Collect data related to NIC Rush.
   6. Deliver a semesterly report in writing to the Director of Greek Life as an evaluation of his term to be given to his successor.

C. The Vice President of NPHC shall:
   1. Coordinate, in conjunction with the VP of NIC all orientation events promoting fraternity membership for the Fraternity Council.
   2. Coordinate, in conjunction with the VP of NIC a Fraternity Council information table during the dates of summer orientation.
   3. Coordinate any special projects assigned to him by the President.
5. Coordinate with Sorority Council Representative NPHC recruitment week activities.
6. Deliver a semesterly report in writing to the Director of Greek Life as an evaluation of his term to be given to his successor.

D. The Executive Vice President shall:
1. Preside at all Fraternity Council meetings in the Presidents absence, and upon his resignation or removal, shall become the President for the duration of his term.
2. Coordinate and supervise the activities of the appointed officers.
3. Support the President on special projects.
4. Preside over all Judicial Board hearings and work with advisors in properly training Judicial Board members.
5. Assist the President in his duties.
6. Deliver a semesterly report in writing to the Director of Greek Life as an evaluation of his term to be given to his successor.

E. The Secretary shall:
1. Keep a complete record of the proceedings of each meeting.
2. Maintain a file of all council proceedings and correspondence.
3. Publish and distribute the minutes of all meetings.
4. Maintain a complete and up to date file which will include minutes of all the Fraternity Council meetings, officer's reports, and other pertinent information.
5. Inform members of all Fraternity Council meetings and activities.
6. Discharge any other duties assigned to him by the President.
7. Deliver a semesterly report in writing to the Director of Greek Life as an evaluation of his term to be given to his successor.

F. The Treasurer shall:
1. Handle all receipts and expenditures of funds as authorized by the Fraternity Council or Executive Committee.
2. Assess and collect all dues and fines.
3. Prepare an annual budget by the first regularly scheduled meeting and following approval by Fraternity Council; provide a copy for each Fraternity Council member.
4. Be responsible for the prompt payment of all bills.
5. Maintain up to date financial records; give a financial report at each regular meeting and a semester report at the end of each semester.
6. Be responsible for countersigning all checks for the expenditures of Fraternity Council funds.
7. Announce all outstanding fines, and any applicable late fees at each Fraternity Council meeting.
8. Deliver a semesterly report in writing to the Director of Greek Life as an evaluation of his term to be given to his successor.

SECTION 7:
The Faculty/Staff Advisor:
A. To Fraternity Council shall be nominated by the President and approved by a majority vote of a quorum of active members. The Faculty/Staff Advisor must be selected from full time faculty or administrative staff members at the University. The Advisor shall serve as a liaison with the University, and help in the transition period between officers. The Advisor will be invited to and notified of all Fraternity Council meetings and activities.

ARTICLE VI - CABINET

SECTION 1:
The following is a list of Fraternity Council appointed officers:
A. Public Relations
B. Membership Education
C. Scholarship
D. Service Chair
E. Greek Week
F. Rush Assistant

SECTION 2:
The Fraternity Council has the power to appoint these positions, and establish new positions.

ARTICLE VII - REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1:
If it is brought to the attention of the Fraternity Council President that an elected member of the Executive Board or an appointed officer is not performing the work required officer is not performing the work required for his position, he will be reviewed at the next Fraternity Council meeting. If the President is brought up on charges, then the Executive Vice President of Judicial Board will be notified and fill in as acting President.

SECTION 2:
Reasons for recommending dismissal:
A. Any four (4) voting members feel the job is not being done adequately.
B. Missing two (2) consecutive Fraternity Council meetings or Executive Board meetings without notifying the President.
C. A sudden illness or injury that inhibits the member from actively performing his duties.
D. Actions unbecoming of a member of Fraternity Council.

SECTION 3:
Procedures for dismissal:
A. The President must be notified, or in the case of the President the Executive Vice President of Judicial Board will be notified, twenty-four (24) hours before the Fraternity Council.
B. Names of the individuals bringing the charges will be kept confidential.
C. A hearing will occur at the next Fraternity Council meeting.
D. A quorum vote is required at the following Fraternity Council meeting after the charges have been brought.
E. An affirmative two-thirds (2/3) Fraternity Council membership vote is required for removal from office.

ARTICLE VIII - FILLING VACANCIES

SECTION 1:
When a vacancy in an elected office occurs, with the exception of the exception of the President, nominations will be held at the next Fraternity Council meeting. The election procedure, Article V Section with the exception of part 6, shall then be followed.

SECTION 2:
If the President position becomes vacant, the Executive Vice President of Judicial Affairs, shall become president for the duration of the term, and Executive Vice President of Judicial Board position will become vacant.

ARTICLE IX - PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

SECTION 1:
The Fraternity Council meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the revised edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

SECTION 2:
The agenda at regular meetings shall be as follows:
A. Call to order
B. Roll call
C. Approval of the minutes
D. Executive committee report
E. Officer Reports
F. Cabinet Reports
G. Old business
H. New business
I. Announcements
J. Adjournment

SECTION 3:
The Fraternity Council shall hold regular meetings, occurring every week, when not in conflict with the school calendar. The secretary shall notify all Fraternity Council member representatives of all meetings by announcement.

SECTION 4:
Special meetings may be called by the President or at the written request of a voting member of Fraternity Council.

SECTION 5:
Fraternity Council Meetings are held Mondays at 4:00 in the Russell House.

SECTION 6:
The presence of two thirds (2/3) or more of the total Fraternity Council membership shall constitute a Quorum.

ARTICLE X - QUORUM

SECTION 1:
A vote will only be counted valid if the quorum (2/3) of the active membership is present. Approved absentee ballots will be counted, but will not be considered part of quorum.

SECTION 2:
Votes may be cast in person or by absentee ballot only at meetings. This privilege may be revoked according to the provisions of this constitution and its' by-laws. A majority vote is considered an affirmative or winner unless a specific item is specified differently in this constitution and Fraternity Council by-laws.

ARTICLE XI - JUDICIAL BOARD AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 1:
Purpose and Responsibility
The Judicial Board shall have the responsibility to determine whether or not there have been violations of the University regulations, the Fraternity Council Constitution and By-laws, or Rush regulations. The purpose of the Judicial Board is to serve as a structured, unbiased organization that offers Fraternity Council members a system of self-government.

SECTION 2:
Selection and Composition

A. The Judicial Board shall consist of nine (9)-voting members and two (2) alternates, all from different chapters associated with the Greek system. Membership shall be selected to the Judicial Board through an application and interview process. The Executive Vice President of Judicial Board and Coordinator of Greek Life shall conduct the interviews and determine who is selected.

1. All members must of a chapter in good standing with the Office of Greek Life.

2. All members must maintain a cumulative GPA of a 2.50 or higher to remain a member in good standing. If their GPA drops below a 2.50 their status will be brought before the Fraternity Council Executive Council.

B. In the event that a member of the Judicial Board's own chapter is brought up on charges, that member will not serve during the proceedings. One of the alternate members, chosen by the Executive Vice President of Judicial Board, will be used as a replacement. In the event that the Executive Vice President's chapter is brought up on charges, he will appoint a member of Judicial Board to serve as acting Executive Vice President. He will then select an alternative member.

SECTION 3:
The following procedures outline the process by which the Judicial Board initiates an information session, conducts a hearing, and handles appeals.

A. Information session guidelines.

1. The chapter Administrator is notified no later than two (2) working days after the alleged incident.

2. The chapter Administrator shall meet with a representative of Greek Life for an information session.

3. During this session the specific article and section of the Fraternity Council Constitution, By-Laws, and/or University regulations that have been violated shall be discussed.

4. The guidelines for the Judicial Board Hearings will be covered.

B. Hearings shall progress according to the following guidelines:
1. Any current executive member of the accused chapter may represent the accused.
2. The hearing will be audio taped and transcribed into minutes.
3. The presiding officer shall introduce the members of the Board to the representatives of the accused and the accuser.
4. The presiding officer shall read the following statement of Policy: "The procedure for this hearing is not intended to be conducted like a court of law. The Judicial Board is to serve as the investigative body to determine the degree of innocence or guilt and to levy a penalty consistent with the violation." He will then ask for the charges to be presented.
5. The evidence shall be presented in the following order:
   a. Cite the specific article and section of the Fraternity Council Constitution, By-Laws, and/or University regulations that have been violated.
   b. Quote the section which has been violated.
   c. State the acts of the accused that constitute the alleged violations and relate them to the violation stated above.
   d. Introduce any witnesses, or submit any written statement, that pertain to the charges.
6. The accused, who is to remaining the room during the course of the hearing, will then present his evidence, explanations, and witnesses. All material should relate directly to the charges.
7. There shall be a question and answer period which will conform to the following guidelines:
   a. Any member of the Judicial Board may address questions to the accused, the accuser, or to any witness.
   b. The accused may address questions to the accuser concerning the evidence and proposed violations established in the investigation.
   c. The accuser may address question to the accused or to the witness provided by the accused.
8. Following the question and answer period, all members except the Judicial Board shall leave the room. The Judicial Board shall then determine the guilt or innocence of the accused. Guilt must be determined by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of those hearing the case. In the event that the accused is found guilty, the Judicial Board members hearing the case shall determine the penalty or penalties.
9. The Judicial Board will reach a decision with in five (5) working days. Upon reaching a verdict, the Executive Vice President of Judicial Board will notify the Director of Greek Life. Upon approval of the decision and sanctions, from the Director of Greek
Life, the Executive Vice President of Judicial Board shall notify the accused and the accuser of the verdict (in written form). A copy of the verdict will be sent to the fraternity chapter advisor, Faculty Advisor, and to the Fraternity Council President.

10. The sanctions are to be enforced by the Fraternity Council President and Director of Greek Life.

C. Appeals shall progress according to the following guidelines:
1. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Director of Greek Life within five (5) working days of the Judicial Board's action. Specific justification for the appeal must be included in the appeal letter.
2. Upon notification from the Director of Greek Life, the presiding officer at the time of the hearing, shall submit a record of the hearing, which shall include the following:
   a. The circumstance that initiated the hearing
   b. The findings of the Board.
   c. Comments of the Board Pertinent to the case.
   d. Reasoning for the decision reached.
3. The Director of Greek Life will review the records involved with the appeal and recommend one of the following:
   a. That the case stand as originally heard.
   b. That the case be re-heard because of new evidence or procedural error.
4. The decision of the Director of Greek Life is final.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1:
Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in writing at any meeting of the Fraternity Council Executive Board. They must then be presented at the following meeting of the Fraternity Council, at which point they will be presented for adoption. At a meeting held not sooner than a week there after, they shall be read a second time and voted upon. A vote that constitutes two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Fraternity Council shall be necessary for adoption.

SECTION 2:
This Constitution shall be reviewed every two years and changes should be made as needed.
ARTICLE XIII - BYLAWS

SECTION 1:
The Fraternity Council shall be empowered through their legislative capacity to enact by-laws to this constitution.

SECTION 2:
By-Laws and amendments to the by-laws shall be voted upon at the meeting following their introduction. A two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required for passage.

ARTICLE XIV - RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall be ratified and adopted by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Fraternity Council.

[Signatures and dates: 10/28/04, 11/3/04]