

Resolution Regarding Rush Restrictions as a Disciplinary Action

WHEREAS, general fraternities and host institutions believe in a shared set of principles as outlined in the rituals of general fraternities and mission statements of colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, host institutions and general fraternities agree on the need for adherence to these high standards of ethical behavior and accountability for their violation; and

WHEREAS, institutional codes of student conduct, Interfraternity council judicial board policies, and general fraternity conduct codes should insure due process and contain specific written provisions for the use of educational and developmental sanctions, as well as those which are punitive in nature; and

WHEREAS, sanctions which are educational and developmental will enable undergraduate chapter leaders, college/university officials, and general fraternity personnel to address cases of inappropriate behavior, redirect organizational attitudes, and secure long-range stability;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Fraternity Advisors and North-American Interfraternity Conference:

1. Communication and cooperation between general fraternities and host institutions are essential if each is to fulfill its goal of holistic education and personal development of leaders.
2. In matters of chapter discipline, host institutions and general fraternities should work together in an integrated approach that considers recent chapter history, chapter self-disciplinary procedures, and sanctions and human development. Where possible and appropriate, educational, developmental, and punitive sanctions should be jointly agreed upon and jointly imposed.
3. Restrictions on rush when used for disciplinary purposes are neither educational nor developmental and therefore are not an acceptable sanction for men's fraternities.

Adopted by vote of the 1990 House of Delegates

Resolution on Right to Freedom of Association and Speech

WHEREAS, The North-American Interfraternity Conference has long maintained as a cardinal value the rights of college and university students freely to associate and responsibly to exercise their freedom of speech; and

WHEREAS, There are private colleges and universities that, despite their receipt of public funds, have acted to prevent their students from exercising these rights to the full extent protected and enjoyed at public colleges and universities; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the North-American Interfraternity Conference supports legislative efforts to protect the rights of freedom of association and freedom of speech at all college and university campuses.

This resolution was approved by the NIC House Of Delegates in December, 1995.

Resolution on Recruitment

WHEREAS, undergraduate membership in NIC member fraternities has declined since 1989; and

WHEREAS, the NIC and its member fraternities have long advocated a model of year-round unrestricted recruitment; and

WHEREAS, many campuses and fraternity chapters continue to recruit new members only during limited times throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, use of the term "rush" has become associated with a time-specific effort to attract new members to a fraternity chapter that is passive in nature; and

WHEREAS fraternity membership has declined despite the NIC and its member fraternities implementing a variety of educational initiatives including the Fraternity Forum model;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The NIC and its member fraternities move from a rush model to a recruitment model based on an unrestricted, year-round commitment to actively seeking prospective members who share our commitment to fraternal values including scholarship, leadership and service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The NIC and its member fraternities develop resources and educational forums to teach undergraduate and alumni members how to actively engage in year-round recruitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The NIC and its member fraternities call on campus fraternity advisors and IFC leaders to implement a recruitment model that provides unrestricted opportunities for students to join fraternities.

Approved by the NIC House of Delegates, December 7, 1996

Resolution on Position on the Right of Students to Freely Associate

WHEREAS, Central to the principles of the member fraternities of the North-American Interfraternity Conference is the understanding that each of them possesses the right to determine both its membership and the practices and procedures by which membership is conferred. This principle, embraced as an essential component in our heritage and tradition, is grounded in the historic American freedom of association and speech guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and reaffirmed in exemptions from Title IX by the Education Amendments of 1972 as it applies to fraternal organizations, and WHEREAS, The Conference acknowledges that colleges and universities have the right to establish fair and reasonable rules and regulations, applicable to all student organizations, to receive and maintain recognition. The Conference asserts, however, that colleges and universities do not have the right to infringe on an organization's right to recruit members, or on a student's right to associate with an organization, if selected by the organization, on such terms and conditions as the student and the organization exclusively may agree; therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, That the Conference affirms its support for the right of students to assemble into fraternal or other student organizations, and to associate with each other in those organizations, free of restriction in their decision.

Statement of Position on Expansion

The member fraternities of the North-American Interfraternity Conference believe the establishment of new chapters to provide a fraternity experience for an increasing number of college students to be in the best interests of higher education and of the fraternity movement.

To this end, members of the Conference agree to:

Educate their undergraduate chapters and the Interfraternity Council leaders and interested alumni about the overall benefits and responsibilities of expansion and to foster ongoing support for the growth of the fraternity movement.

Offer only those statements and promises in expansion discussions which accurately reflect their capabilities.

Encourage the highest academic, social, and moral standards among all interested students in all expansion endeavors.

Make every reasonable attempt to coordinate expansion efforts with the administration and with the Interfraternity Council of colleges and universities at which they are pursuing expansion opportunities.

Recognize that the size of a member fraternity is not indicative of that member fraternity's ability to administer an expansion project at any particular institution.

Respect the right of any organized collegiate group to seek a member fraternity of its choice in an effort to affiliate with that general fraternity.

Request approval of the appropriate college or university official before granting colony status.

Adopted by vote of the 1983 House of Delegates

RESOLUTION ON EXPANSION

The member fraternities of the North-American Interfraternity Conference believe that each individual member fraternity offers a unique and desirable fraternity experience. The members of the Conference also recognize that the most successful fraternity systems have no barriers to entry.

Therefore, the members of the Conference agree to:

Ensure that their member Chapters are open and receptive to expansion on their campuses.

Vigorously defend students' Constitutional freedoms of association and assembly on public campuses.

Insist that even at private institutions, the basic principles of freedom of association are upheld and that all applicable Federal, state, and local laws as well as university policies are applied fairly and evenly to all student groups.

This resolution was approved by the NIC House of Delegates in December 1999.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON EXPANSION

The North-American Interfraternity Conference encourages appropriate college officials and/or Interfraternity Councils to consider the following for expansion to a campus:

- be open to all fraternities not currently represented on the campus;
- exclude costly multi-media presentations, financial and housing commitments and political influence;
- recognize that the size of a fraternity or the number of local alumni is not an indication of that fraternity's ability to administer an expansion project;
- respect the right of any organized college group to seek affiliation with the fraternity of its choice; and,
- recognize the constitutional rights of students to associate with a fraternity as guaranteed by the Freedom of Association provision of the United States Constitution.

The North-American Interfraternity Conference, therefore, states its support for open, unrestricted expansion for all college and university fraternity systems, and charges Interfraternity Councils and member fraternities to move toward such a program.

President Pease directed the Executive Vice President of the Conference to call roll at 9:25am. Mr. Williamson identified 51 member fraternities who answered present. A majority vote was established at 26 and a two-thirds vote of those present was established at 34.