University of Connecticut Interfraternity Council

Expansion and Colonization Policies
Revised October 2014

Purpose of the IFC Expansion Committee
The purpose of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) Expansion Committee shall be to deal with all matters pertaining to expansion of the IFC Fraternity community at the University of Connecticut (UConn). All action in the areas of formal expansion must be initiated and sanctioned by this committee, and it may also be used to support other methods of expansion if necessary. The Expansion Committee shall consist of, but is not limited to, the following individuals: the IFC Executive Vice President (Chair), the IFC Advisor, and representatives from all chapters of IFC fraternities. The IFC Executive Board must approve all student members of the Committee.

Responsibilities
The IFC Expansion Committee is responsible for managing and overseeing all matters concerning formal expansion. When called upon to, the committee will examine the IFC community under the following criteria: number of chapters, percentage of Greek students, number of potential new members for growth, and number of housed chapters. Other responsibilities include regularly reporting all committee activities to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL), the Interfraternity Council, Intercultural Greek Council (IGC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and Panhellenic Council (PC).

An inter/national fraternity may consult with the IFC Executive Vice President and IFC Advisor regarding all colonization plans and procedures. It is the responsibility of the IFC Executive Vice President and IFC Advisor to provide any necessary information regarding colonization or University and IFC guidelines, policies, procedures, rules, help with reservations, etc.

Jurisdiction
It is the duty of the IFC Assembly to determine the need for expansion. Forming an expansion committee needs approval from the OFSL and IFC Assembly. The committee has the authority to plan a timeline for expansion as well as determine the inter/national fraternities that will be contacted and considered for expansion at the University of Connecticut.

Duties of Petitioning Organizations
Prior to contacting potential new student members, the interested fraternity must gain approval from the IFC and the OFSL for expansion. The organization must also provide a written prospectus to the IFC Expansion Committee. The Prospectus must include the following information:

1. Any available inter/national statistics, including, and related to:
   a. Chapter/Colony Management
      i. Total number of active chapters in the Northeast and
inter/nationally
ii. Current number of colonies
iii. Current number of undergraduate members
iv. Average chapter size of current chapters
v. Numbers of chapters closed in the last five years and reasons for closing
vi. List and status of colonies established in the last five years

b. Alumni Relations
   i. Total number of alumni regionally
   ii. Statement regarding interest and support of the alumni in establishing a chapter
   iii. A list of specific alumni who are interested in working with the chapter in and advisory capacity

2. Inter/national headquarters values, policies and publications describing, at least:
   a. A description of the organizational values, policies and publications
   b. A summary of the organizational structure of the fraternity at the chapter and inter/national levels
      i. Including membership costs
   c. Information describing foundation scholarships/loans
   d. Housing support/national housing corporation
   e. Leadership development opportunities
   f. Constitution (inter/national and local if applicable)
   g. Inter/national magazine/publications
   h. Minimum standards for membership
   i. National programming including at least:
      i. Length/focus of the new member program
      ii. Scholarship program
      iii. Community service program
      iv. Risk management program/policies

3. A plan of how the organization plans to meet the requirements of UConn OFSL

4. Minimal expectations from inter/national headquarters for the colony for successful maintenance and chartering including:
   a. Field staff visits
      i. The colony shall have an inter/national representative visit at least once each semester for the duration of the colonization period.
      This representative shall meet with the IFC Advisor each semester.
   b. Recruitment support
   c. Additional resources
   d. Housing expectations
   e. General monetary support
      i. A description of housing assets and resources, both monetary and advisory, available to this colony
   f. Average and minimum number recruited to start a colony
   g. Average and minimum time it takes for a colony to be chartered
   h. Selection process and duties of chapter advisors

5. A detailed plan of tangible, and quantifiable chapter goals for the foreseeable future
including the following information at 1, 5, and 10 year points, and how inter/national policies help support such goals:

- a. Approximate chapter size
- b. Approximate chapter GPA
- c. Philanthropy money raised per brother
- d. Community service hours per brother
- e. Fundraising money per brother
- f. Chapter and alumni board finances
- g. Status of campus housing

6. How they plan to integrate into the UConn community and help accomplish the mission of both OFSL and the IFC
   - a. Please explain the plans to accomplish this in reference to OFSL Project Arête Accreditation Program requirements

7. A support plan detailing what roles UConn staff, the IFC, alumni and the inter/national headquarters will play in supporting the organization, both as a colony and a chartered chapter to accomplish the goals referenced in 5 and 6.
   - a. Include a basic explanation of what circumstances, both positive and negative, in which a representative from the inter/national organization would come to campus

8. Presentation by prospective groups will be made to the IFC Assembly at meetings called by the Expansion Committee. Evaluation of the materials presented, as well as the prospectus submitted by the inter/national organizations, will be the information used to determine expansion and recognition by the IFC.

**Campus Return**

1. If a returning to campus, include:
   - a. Reasons why the chapter left campus and when
   - b. How the issue(s) involved have been addressed
   - c. How the group has cleared any debts or circumstances still incomplete from when previously on campus (if applicable)
   - d. Proof that all undergraduate members have graduated from the University of Connecticut and that there are no “underground” activities taking place
   - e. It is recommended that organizations wishing to re-establish a colony/chapter at UConn wait no fewer than eight (8) full semesters (fall/spring) after the term in which recognition is lost before entering the expansion process with the Expansion Committee. The inter/national headquarters of the group wishing to re-colonize must contact or send a letter of intent to the OFSL and the IFC Executive Vice President.

**IFC Recognition**

Probationary status for membership into the IFC by new groups will be granted by a two-thirds majority vote of the IFC Assembly. The vote will include a commencement date for colonization. Upon approval from the IFC Assembly, the organization will be granted probationary membership in IFC. If they meet all membership requirements listed in Article III Section 3, are considered in good standing according to Article III Section 4, are accredited by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and serve as a probationary
member for at least one calendar year, the group will receive full membership within IFC. The IFC Executive Body will concurrently examine average chapter size and total community size to determine a number, in conjunction with the organization petitioning for recognition, which will be the recommended minimum chapter size for the organization before recognition is granted. This number should be determined as a solid operating number for a group’s continued success.

**Statement on Interest Group Expansion**

While the IFC recognizes the constitutional right to freely assemble and organize, and acknowledges the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) policy of open expansion, we as the governing body, responsible for management and stewardship of the UConn fraternity community, may invoke our right to determine membership of inter/national organizations that are willing to establish a collaborative partnership to enhance the fraternity experience on our campus. While we will not attempt to inhibit or restrict non-member organizations, any non-member interest group or colony of a national fraternity will not have access to the benefits of IFC membership, including, but not limited to, support and recognition from the OFSL and registration from the Department of Student Activities. Consequently such groups cannot participate in university events such as Greek Week or Homecoming, and will not have access to university facilities to conduct meetings or events. We encourage any inter/national organization with an interest group hoping to start a colony at the UConn Storrs campus to first contact the OFSL to begin discussions about colonization before coming to campus and attempting to recruit or attract new members.

**Colony/New Chapter Requirements**

Within one calendar month of being selected for colonization, the following shall be provided to the Expansion Committee: anticipated timeline for colonization at the UConn, number of traveling consultant(s), description of program, and the amount of attention and support that will be available for the UConn group from the inter/national headquarters. Also inter/national organizations must provide information regarding their advisor program (specific to the UConn group), a description of inter/national staff assistance to colonies and established chapters (i.e., during colonization, and after chartering, etc.), a description of convention, leadership schools, and membership development programs available to colony members. Finally, information regarding inter/national expansion budget allotted to the UConn colony must be provided.

At least one representative of the colony must attend all IFC Assembly meetings and probationary members are encouraged to participate in all Greek community activities. Additionally, colonies are not voting members and their members are not allowed to hold IFC Executive Committee positions until they are no longer considered probationary members. The colony shall maintain an active Advisory Committee, consisting of at least two alumni or volunteers, with one being designated as the chapter advisor. The inter/national fraternity is responsible for training the Advisory Committee. The colony must abide by all IFC and University policies, regulations, and guidelines. During the colonization period, the colony shall develop programming in the following areas in order to gain full membership within IFC, with records of these provided as requested by
the IFC Advisor and/or Expansion Committee:
1. Fraternity Education
2. Recruitment/Membership Intake
3. Scholarship
4. Officer Training and Transition
5. Financial Responsibilities
6. Alumni Relations
7. Social Programming (to include substance abuse and risk management education)
8. Community Service
9. Sexual Assault and Harassment
10. New Member Education and Hazing
11. Local IFC/IGC/NPHC/PC involvement
12. Other activities as outlined by the fraternity, OFSL Project Arête Accreditation Program requirements and University

Failure to meet any of the aforementioned requirements within one year of colonization will result in a review by the Expansion Committee, IFC Executive Board and the IFC Advisor to determine status of IFC membership and OFSL Recognition: http://greeklife.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/266/2014/01/OFSL_Recognition-Policy_2014.pdf.

**Additional Information**
Note that once the said group has assembled, it may apply for University housing in the Husky Village or other on-campus facility through the Department of Residence Life.