

Fraternity & Sorority Council Constitution

University of California, Merced

Last updated February 7, 2015

Fraternity & Sorority Council (hereafter FSC) shall be defined as the governing body of all recognized social fraternities and sororities at the University of California, Merced. It will be our goal to strive to create and maintain a Greek community that is fitting to the needs of higher education in the 21st century, and do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for our Fraternity & Sorority Council.

I. Name

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Fraternity & Sorority Council at the University of California, Merced.

II. Purpose

- A. The purpose of the FSC shall be to:
 - i. Serve as the legislative governing body of all member organizations;
 - ii. Serve as an information resource and liaison between the University of California, Merced, the Associated Students of the University of California, Merced, and the member organizations;
 - iii. Integrate the member organizations with the University of California, Merced, and to the larger Merced and Central Valley communities;
 - iv. Provide and support activities in compliance with federal, state and local laws, applicable policies of individual inter/national fraternities and sororities, local chapters/colonies, and applicable regulations of the University of California, Merced, including the University Student Code of Conduct, and the FSC Constitution and/or By-Laws and resolutions;
 - v. Promote an atmosphere for the maintenance of chapters/colonies which will foster personal growth, development of leadership skills and responsible application of brotherhood/sisterhood, personal accountability, communal respect, and community involvement, and;
 - vi. Maintain an environment for high academic and intellectual excellence through the creation and supervision of programs consistent with the ideals of fraternal self-governance.

III. Membership

- A. There shall be two forms of membership: Regular and Provisional.
 - i. Regular Membership of the FSC shall be granted to all members in chartered chapters currently recognized by the University of California, Merced, that are in good standing with the FSC, the University, and their respective inter/national organizations.
 - 1. A representative of an organization with Regular Membership shall be known as a Chapter Delegate.

- ii. Provisional Membership of the FSC shall be granted to all members in recognized colonies that are in good standing with the FSC, the University, and their respective inter/national organizations.
 - 1. Colonies are defined as any interest group that has been invited to come on campus by the expansion process.
 - 2. A representative of an organization with Provisional Membership shall be known as a Colony Representative.

IV. Executive Board

- A. The FSC Executive Board shall consist of officer positions held by members in a member organization holding regular membership in the Fraternity & Sorority Council at the University of California, Merced. These positions shall be:

President,
Executive Vice President of Fraternities,
Executive Vice President of Panhellenic,
Executive Vice President of NALFO,
Vice President of Administration,
Vice President of Academics,
Vice President of University Relations,
Vice President of Outreach,
Vice President of Involvement,
Vice President of Marketing.

V. Meetings

- A. The FSC Executive Board shall meet weekly on-campus during the academic year, except on holidays and during a final exam period, at a time and place designated by the FSC President.
- B. The FSC shall have the ability to hold general, committee and special meetings.
 - i. General: The FSC shall meet weekly on-campus during the academic year, except on holidays and during a final exam period, at a 7:30pm on Tuesdays. All general meetings:
 - 1. Must be announced at least forty-eight hours in advance, and
 - 2. Are open, unless a closed session is called by the FSC.
 - a. Only the FSC Executive Board, Chapter Delegates, and the FSC Advisor are permitted at closed sessions.
 - ii. Committee: The FSC Committee shall meet on-campus during the academic year, except on holidays and during a final exam period, at a time, place and frequency designated by the Committee Chair(s).
 - 1. Must be announced at least forty-eight hours in advance.
 - iii. Special: A special meeting may be called by the FSC President when deemed necessary with approval from the FSC Advisor and twenty-four hour notice.
- C. The FSC shall structure meetings according to the needs of the Greek community, but shall include at a minimum:

- i. Agenda: The FSC President shall create an agenda which he/she shall email to the Chapter Delegates and Colony Representatives at least twenty-four hours in advance, in order to allow preparation and review of the topics of conversation that will be presented and discussed at each FSC General Meeting.
 - 1. The Chapter Delegates and Colony Representatives shall email their reports and new/old business to the FSC President within forty-eight hours in advance, to be included on the agenda.
- ii. Minutes: The Vice President of Administration shall take minutes which he/she shall email to all Chapter Delegates, Colony Representatives, and/or Chapter Presidents with 24 hours of the FSC General Meetings adjournment.
 - 1. The Minutes shall be posted on the Resources section of UCM Crops within 48 hours of adjournment for FSC General Meetings.
- iii. Attendance: The Vice President of Administration shall take attendance of Chapter Delegates, Colony Representatives and the FSC Executive Board during the roll call of each FSC General Meeting.
- iv. Chapter Delegate, Officer and Committee Reports: The Chapter Delegates, Colony Representatives, Executive Board will report any activity or business during the previous week, as well as upcoming plans at each FSC General Meeting.
- v. Business/Announcements: The FSC may hold open discussion or call for a vote amongst the Chapter Delegates at each FSC General Meeting.

VI. Fraternity & Sorority Council

- A. Membership: The FSC shall be composed of the Chapter Delegates of each member organization holding regular membership in the FSC, as well as the FSC Executive Board Officers.
- B. General Powers: The FSC shall have the ability to:
 - i. Coordinate activities between the Greek community in areas with educational, social, scholastic, and philanthropic purposes;
 - ii. Recommend or oppose recognition of a Greek Letter Organization to the Division of Student Affairs at the University of California, Merced;
 - iii. Voice the interests and opinions of all recognized member organizations to the University of California, Merced, administration, faculty, and student body;
 - iv. Create and authorize committees that it deems necessary to satisfy the interests and functions of the Greek community;
 - v. Oversee and transact financial business by receiving, administering, and dispersing funds to be used, invested, or donated for educational, social, scholastic, and philanthropic purposes consistent with fraternal ideals;
 - vi. Establish such rules of procedure, such as the FSC By-Laws, which it deems instrumental in carrying out its responsibilities, and;

- vii. Restrict any member organization due to violation of the FSC Constitution and/or By-Laws and resolutions;
 - 1. Restriction from the FSC is defined as:
 - a. An automatic recommendation to the Student Judicial Affairs of the University of California, Merced for further review of the member organization in question;
 - b. A letter of notification sent to the member organization's alumni/alumnae chapter advisor stating that the member organization is currently in bad standing with the FSC;
 - c. A letter of notification sent to the member organization's (inter)national office stating that the member organization is currently in bad standing with the FSC, and;
 - d. Social probation, which includes a restriction from attending FSC-sponsored events and/or hosting/sponsoring open social events on-campus and off-campus.
 - i. An open social event shall be defined as any event being advertised/sponsored/hosted and/or attended on-campus or off-campus at which non-members of the hosting chapter(s) and/or invited chapter(s) are present
 - 2. A member organization may be placed on restriction for a maximum of sixteen fall and/or spring academic weeks by a vote of three-fourths of the Chapter Delegates, provided that the member organization has been proven to be in violation with the FSC Constitution and/or By-Laws and resolutions.
- C. Quorum: A majority (50% + 1) of the Chapter Delegates of all member organizations shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- D. Voting: The voting body of the FSC shall be the Chapter Delegates of each member organization holding regular membership in the FSC. When voting on matters concerning recruitment, the voting body shall also include Colony Representatives of each member organization holding provisional membership in the FSC.
 - i. Each member organization holding regular membership in the FSC shall have one vote. All votes shall be cast by the Chapter Delegate.
 - ii. Each member organization holding provisional membership in the FSC shall have a voice but no vote, except when voting on matters concerning recruitment, for which member organizations holding provisional membership in the FSC shall have one vote. All votes shall be cast by the Colony Representative.
 - iii. Voice: The Executive Board and advisors have a voice but no vote.
 - iv. Two-thirds of the votes cast is required to establish policies and carry all other motions.

1. Exception include: approving membership dues, restriction of a member organization, the removal of an FSC Executive Board Officer, or an amendment to the FSC Constitution and/or By-Laws, as stated by Article VIII of the FSC Constitution and Article VIII of the FSC By-Laws.
2. If not defined, the vote shall be approved by a majority vote.

VII. Violation

- A. The Fraternity Sorority Standards Board shall hold jurisdiction over any standards cases relating to a violation of the FSC Constitution and/or By-Laws.
- B. All recruitment infractions will be referred to the FSC Advisor.

VIII. Amendments to the Constitution

- A. The FSC Constitution may be amended by three-fourths vote of the Chapter Delegates holding regular membership, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing at the preceding FSC General Meeting.

IX. Authorization

- A. The FSC Constitution shall become effective upon the ratification of its terms by all of the chartered member organizations presently recognized at the University of California, Merced. Signatures of the Chapter Delegates of each member organization shall be attached in the event of the FSC Constitution being ratified.