Constitution of the _____ Chapter of the Fraternal Values Society at _____College/University

(Note: This sample Constitution and By-Laws is intended for the individual chapters of the Fraternal Values Society. Where blanks are provided the blank should be replaced with the specific information required. Each chapter has the ability to change this sample constitution as long as it strengthens the content and intent. In no way may a chapter vote or choose to weaken the criteria listed (i.e. lowering GPA requirements or lowering voting requirements, etc.). Should there be questions or concerns about a potential conflict with a University policy, feel free to contact the Central Office. Notes such as this should be removed in the final document. Each chapter must submit their ratified constitution to the Central Office within 14 days of ratification for final overview and approval).

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the _____ Chapter of the Fraternal Values Society of _____ College/University, in order to promote our collective founding values, develop a greater understanding among all general/social fraternal organizations, to educate the membership of the fraternity/sorority community about individual and organizational values, and to assist each other and the host institution in attaining their educational and cultural objectives, do hereby establish this Constitution and Bylaws.

DECLARATION

Section A: We consider fraternal organizations responsible for a positive contribution to the primary functions of the _____College/University, and therefore, under obligation to encourage the most complete personal development of its members intellectually, morally, and developmentally.

Therefore, we declare:

1. The Fraternal Values Society shall advance fraternal values congruence, alignment, and the continued relevance of fraternities and sororities;
2. The Fraternal Values Society shall work to influence the structures; and programs, and traditions in existence that are not in congruence with our shared fraternal values;
3. The objectives and activities of the Fraternal Values Society shall be in entire accord with the mission/vision/goal of the institution at which it has chapters;
4. The Fraternal Values Society shall promote conduct consistent with good morals and good taste, modeling values congruence;

5. The Fraternal Values Society shall create and shape an environment which stimulates substantial intellectual progress and superior intellectual achievement; and
6. The Fraternal Values Society shall assert and promote the ethical decision-making skills of all members of fraternal organizations.

ARTICLE I: Name

Section A: The general name of this organization shall be the "_____ Chapter of the Fraternal Values Society at (the) _____College/University", hereinafter referred to as the "Fraternal Values Society" or "The Society".

ARTICLE II: Vision, Mission, and Purpose

Section A: Vision: The Society will create, develop, and support the most trusted values congruent fraternal organizations.

Section B: Mission: To illuminate the central values that guided the historical founding of general fraternities and sororities, and to incorporate these values into the contemporary fraternity and sorority experience.

Section C: Purpose: The Society asks members to personalize these fraternal ideals in their daily lifelong membership experience. We address this mission through:

1. The sponsorship of various educational programs throughout the year;
2. Creating opportunities for ongoing values-based dialogue and discourse;
3. Increasing awareness and personal reflection about fraternal values through program, resources and support materials;
4. Empowering individuals to live their lives according to the fraternal rituals, assisting individuals and organizations who struggle to reach these standards, and confronting individuals and organizations who fail to uphold these values; and
5. Publicly recognizing individuals and organizations that exemplify their organizational values.

ARTICLE III: Affiliations

Section A: This organization shall be affiliated with the Fraternal Values Society of the Association of Fraternal Leadership & Values and shall abide by its constitutions, bylaws and governing documents in all cases where there is no conflict between their constitution and bylaws and this constitution and/or rules, regulations, or policies of _____ College/University. In instances of conflict, the

rules, regulations, or policies of _____ College/University shall take precedence over the constitution or bylaws of the Fraternal Values Society.

ARTICLE IV: Membership

Section A: Members can be anyone affiliated and initiated through a fraternity or sorority. Members must be and remain in good standing with their organization. At minimum, The Society members must be in good academic standing and above the all-College/University grade point average at the _____College/University.

Section B: The selection of individual members shall follow the process as outlined by the Central Office and available on The Society website. Additionally, prospective members will utilize the Fraternal Values Society application for membership as provided by the Central Office.

Section C: The Central Office and the local society may choose outstanding individuals exemplifying good character and fraternal values who are not currently members of a fraternal organization for honorary membership. Honorary members should be individuals who exemplify the principles of the Fraternal Values Society, but may or may not be affiliated with a fraternity or a sorority.

ARTICLE V: Human Dignity, Non-Discrimination and Anti-Hazing

Section A: Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected. The Society is dedicated to perpetuating an atmosphere where respect for human dignity of all people is a chief concern, and will be apparent in all our attitudes and actions.

Section B: The Fraternal Values Society does not and will not tolerate any action that discriminates or degrades based on race, religion, ethnic group, sexual orientation, national origin, political persuasion, veteran status, age, gender, or physical ability. Furthermore, The Society does not and will not tolerate sexual abuse or harassment of any kind.

Section C: Regardless of definition, The Society prohibits any and all forms of hazing or actions that could be suggested, implied, considered, or thought of as hazing by any person, and these actions are explicitly banned.

Article VI: Board of Directors

Section A: The Board of Directors shall be composed of enrolled and undergraduate members of the Fraternal Values Society of the _____College/University.

Section B: The Board of Directors will be comprised of at least five leadership positions.

Section C: The positions of the Board of Directors shall be the Board Chairperson, Director of Values Education, Director of Administration and Finance, Director of Character Development, and Director of Communication and Marketing.

Section D: Members of the Board of Directors must have a minimum cumulative GPA at or above the all-College/University average to be eligible to serve.

Section E: The Board of Directors shall:

1. Set policies governing the Board of Directors;
2. Set policies governing the Fraternal Values Society;
3. Seek counsel and work collaboratively with the campus Fraternal Values Society Advisor;
4. Attend events regularly;
5. Attend all Board of Directors meetings and functions; and
6. Abide by majority decisions reached by the Board of Directors.

Section F: Board of Directors meeting procedures:

1. The Board of Directors shall meet regularly at a time and place to be determined by the Board at the beginning of each academic term;
2. The Board Chairperson shall conduct the meetings; and
3. In absence of the Chairperson, the Director of Values Education shall conduct the meetings.

Note: Local chapters of the Fraternal Values Society may add up to two (2) additional Board Directors officers to meet the needs of the chapter. Remove this statement from the template.

ARTICLE VII: Term of Office

Section A: Each Board of Directors member shall hold office for one calendar year from the date on which she/he was elected or appointed unless:

1. He/she does not espouse and model fraternal values through their actions;
2. He/she was elected or appointed to fill a vacancy in office, in which case she/he shall finish the term of the officer she/he replaced;
3. He/she is removed from the leadership position;
4. The election date is changed; or
5. His/her GPA falls below the all-College/University cumulative average.

ARTICLE VIII: Filling a Vacancy

Section A: The Board of Directors shall receive nominations of candidates interested in filling the vacated term. The Board of Directors shall appoint an undergraduate to fill the vacancy by a majority vote.

Section B: If the office of Chairperson of the Board of Directors becomes vacant during the middle of a term, the Director of Values Education shall assume the duties of the Chairperson until there is a special election for the replacement of the Chairperson. The new Chairperson shall be elected from the existing Board of Directors in the case of vacancy during a term.

ARTICLE IX: The Society Advisor

Section A: The Society Advisor(s) shall be faculty/staff members of host institution. The Society Advisor shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and must be approved by a majority vote of its membership.

Section B: The Fraternal Values Society Advisor may attend all sessions of the Board of Directors, The Society meetings, and shall remain informed of The Society business.

Section C: Adjunct advisors to assist with special operations may be appointed by the Board of Directors and The Society Advisor.

Section D: The Society Advisor shall serve as a mentor to The Society – providing guidance to the Board of Directors and members in development and implementation of programs and activities, as well as policy and procedure. Additionally, The Society Advisor will monitor all expenditures of The Society in coordination with the Director of Administration and Finance.

Article X: Meetings

Section A: The Fraternal Values Society shall hold at least two regular meetings during each academic term (semester). *Note: may change this to one regular meeting during each academic term for quarters.*

Section B: A special meeting of The Fraternal Values Society may be called by the Chairperson when necessary and shall be called by him/her upon the written request of a member.

Article XI: Suspension, Expulsion, and Resignation

Section A: Any individual found to be in violation of any member responsibility, policy, intent, or spirit of The Society shall be deprived of membership and required to surrender all Society insignia and any evidence s/he may have of her/his affiliation with The Society (pin, membership card, certificate, shirt, etc.)

Section B: Any person may file charges in writing against a member of The Society for a violation. Charges may be filed with any member of the Board of Directors and/or The Society Advisor.

Section C: A copy of the charges against the member on trial, together with written notice of the time and place for the hearing of such charges shall be served upon such member either personally, by official university email account, or by registered mail, addressed to her/his last known address, at least 7 days before the date of the hearing and not more than 7 days after formal notification of the violation.

Section D: Any member with a pending violation hearing shall be suspended until at which time the matter is resolved. Suspension prohibits the participation in any Society activity, formal or informal, social or business.

Section E: Hearings will be held by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may, by a 1/3 vote (at least two members) of the Board, suspend or expel a member for violations and/or failure to discharge his/her obligations, responsibilities or duties to The Society.

Section F: An expelled member shall have the right to appeal within 7 days of notification from the Board of Directors to the voting membership of the _____ chapter of the Fraternal Values Society at _____ College/University. The Board of Directors and the member being charged shall make a presentation to the membership, which may, by a vote of 2/3 of the members represented, dismiss the charge. Quorum as defined by Roberts Rules of Order shall be achieved for a vote to take place. Unless such member shall appeal within the time herein provided the Director of Administration and Finance shall strike the members name from the rolls.

Section G: If the decision of the membership is not acceptable by either the accused or by the Board of Directors, the matter may receive one final appeal to the Advisory Team for the Fraternal Values Society through the Association of Fraternal Leadership & Values. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 14 days upon receiving written notice of the appeal outcome from the membership of the local Society.

Section H: A member may resign, provided her/his financial obligations to The Society are current. The resigning member must, prior to her/his submission of resignation, return to The Society all Society insignia and any evidence s/he may have of

her/his affiliation with The Society. The resignation shall specify the reasons for such resignation, which shall be submitted, to the Board of Directors. Within 10 days after receipt by the Board of Directors a record of the resignation shall be submitted to the Central Office.

Article XII: Constitution, Amendments and Rules of Order

Section A: Constitution and Bylaws: A copy of the Constitution must be made available to all members upon their initiation into the Society.

Section B: Amendments: This constitution shall be amended by a vote of ¾ majority of membership at any regular or special meeting.

Section C: Rules of Order: The Society shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, except in matters specifically provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Article XIII: Method of Dissolution

Section A: In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the _____chapter of the Fraternal Values Society at _____ College/University, any funds remaining after making provision for, or the actual payment of debts, shall be distributed to the national organization of the Fraternal Values Society at the Association of Fraternal Leadership & Values.

Date Ratified: *(insert date the constitution is initially ratified)*

Date Revised: *(insert date the constitution is revised)*

Date Revised: *(insert date the constitution is revised)*

By-Laws of the _____ Chapter of the Fraternal Values Society at _____College/University

Article I: Membership

Section A: Selection of members

1. A member recruitment process should occur at least once per term.
2. The selection of members shall be left to the discretion of the individual chapter of The Society subject to such restrictions as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws. It is recommended that The Society utilize the membership application provided by the central office or its equivalent.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of The Society members in attendance shall be required to extend an invitation of membership.

Section B: Member privileges

1. Have all privileges and rights under this Constitution and Bylaws except as limited by the actions of the Board of Directors or host institution;
2. Participate in all The Society sponsored programs;
3. Vote at membership meetings; and
4. Have its members, as they are eligible, hold elective and appointive offices of The Society.
5. Membership in The Society entitles initiates to the rights and privileges of life membership.

Section C: Member responsibilities

1. Pay all dues and fees owed to the local Fraternal Values Society and its central office;
2. Abide by this Constitution and Bylaws and all regulations adopted by The Society and membership;
3. Abide by all host institution regulations and policies;
4. Abide by all local, state, and federal laws;
5. Maintain an updated list of all its members, officers, and advisors with the central office;
6. Advance dialogue and debate of fraternal values and accountability;
7. Encourage among its members a spirit of cooperation with the campus and interfraternal community; and

8. Encourage and promote the ethical business and values purpose of The Society among its members and general members of the fraternity/sorority community.
9. Lead ethically, morally, and demonstrate values congruence.

Section D: Loss or Removal of Membership

A member may lose or be removed from membership if:

1. He/she is found responsible for violating any rules or regulations and expectations of The Society.
2. He/she does not fulfill the member responsibilities listed in Article III, Section D.
3. Procedures are outlined in Article XV.

Section E: Transfer members

An initiated transfer student shall be affiliated with The Fraternal Values Society at the _____college/university, which they transferred to at the discretion of that society. The Society shall verify the individual's membership into The Fraternal Values Society with the central office.

ARTICLE II: Election Procedures

Section A: Elections are to coincide with the council officer terms at the host institution.

Section B: Any member of The Society may apply for a seat on the Board of Directors.

Section C: The applicant must complete an application and be interviewed by the current members of the Board of Directors.

Section D: The Board of Directors will then discuss placement and recommend a slate of new officers to the general membership for their election. The slate must be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III: Duties of Board of Directors

Section A: Chairperson

The Chairperson is chiefly responsible for values congruence and alignment, the overall smooth operation of The Society, leadership of the Board of Directors, and shall:

1. Preside over all sessions of The Society and meetings of the Board of Directors;
2. Maintain close contact with all the work of the fraternity/sorority community governing councils and advance and complement, not compete, with their work;
3. Coordinate and expedite projects and businesses of The Society;
4. Delegate responsibilities to The Society Board of Directors and make sure that these responsibilities carried out;
5. Keep The Society Advisor informed of all business and bring business to the membership when necessary and appropriate;
6. Maintain a complete and up-to-date Chairperson's file which will include a copy of the current Constitution, Bylaws, budget, copies of reports, correspondence, and minutes and other pertinent materials;
7. Appoint and disband special committees;
8. Be the identified, sole undergraduate spokesperson for The Society, and;
9. Lead ethically, morally, and demonstrate values congruence.

Section B: Director of Values Education

The Director of Values Education shall promote values education to the entire fraternity/sorority community, and shall:

1. Work in conjunction with the fraternity/sorority community's educational programming bodies/leaders to ensure that fraternal values is part of all community-wide speakers and programs;
2. If the governing councils do not have the responsibility of providing community-wide educational programs, recommend values-based keynote speakers to the campus program board;
3. In conjunction with the Advisor, provide/facilitate educational programs on fraternal values at existing fraternity/sorority leadership workshops and conferences;
4. Organize a meeting each semester with all chapter presidents and/or anyone interested in attending to discuss and share new ideas in values-based educational programming; and
5. Lead ethically, morally, and demonstrate values congruence.

Section C: Director of Administration and Finance

The Director of Administration and Finance directs the internal affairs and oversees all financial matters of The Society, and shall:

1. Be responsible for disseminating all information as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors or delivered from the central office;

2. Serve as recorder and take the minutes of each session of The Society and Board of Directors meeting;
3. Distribute and maintain copies of the minutes of each session or meeting to every member at the following session or meeting;
4. Update the Board of Directors on correspondence received and sent;
5. Summarize a one-year calendar of all events. These are to be distributed to all advisors, governing council leaders, chapter presidents, etc.;
6. Prepare a budget;
7. Regulate the finances of The Society in strict line with the mission and objectives of The Society and its budget;
8. Pay all bills owed. This includes being responsible for collecting all initiation dues of new members, local society dues, and for providing payment(s) to the central office;
9. Report on The Society's financial statues to the Board of Directors;
10. Order and purchase all necessary Ritual equipment and materials;
11. Identify and apply for student activity fund dollars, corporate partnerships, co-sponsorship opportunities with different organizations focusing on values, etc.; and
12. Lead ethically, morally, and demonstrate values congruence.

Section D: Director of Character Development

The Director of Membership Development creates and develops programs to educate Fraternal Values Society members about challenges facing the fraternity/sorority community, works to strengthen the sense of unity among The Society members, and shall:

1. Create learning opportunities for The Society members;
2. Create opportunities to Fraternal Values Society members to discuss, debate, and apply fraternal values to their lives;
3. Coordinate the Fraternal Values Society Initiation of new members into The Society;
4. Maintain contact with all worthwhile organizations that have goals similar to the committees that he/she oversees;
5. Attend meetings of these other organizations to gain ideas for programming;
6. Work closely with the fraternity/sorority governing councils and honor societies and assist with any collaborative programs; and
7. Lead ethically, morally, and demonstrate values congruence.

Section E: Director of Communication and Marketing

The Director of Communication and Marketing is responsible for promoting The Society programs and learning opportunity to the fraternity/sorority and campus community at large, and shall:

1. Coordinate all marketing materials, promotions, and advertisements for The Society programs on behalf of The Society;
2. Invite fraternity/sorority community members to The Society programs;
3. Invite faculty, staff, unaffiliated students, and other interested individuals to The Society events;
4. Oversee and update the information on The Society on appropriate campus and fraternity/sorority community websites;
5. Communicate regularly with The Society Advisor and chapter presidents on The Society activities; and
6. Lead ethically, morally, and demonstrate values congruence.

ARTICLE IV: Selection of Advisor

Section A: The Society Advisor shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and must be approved by a majority vote of its membership.

Section B: The Society reserves the right to remove an advisor by majority vote should circumstances require such an action. Grounds for removal of an advisor include but may not be limited to:

- Failure to be actively invested in organizational activities;
- Behavior that violates University policy and/or procedure;
- Behavior that violates the Fraternal Values Society Code of Ethics;
- Direct knowledge of risk management and/or hazing incidents within the society or the larger interfraternal community, and failure to report such incidents; and
- Placing students at unreasonable and/or unnecessary risk.

ARTICLE V: Committees

Section A: Committees

Member Societies may create committees to maximize the talents, skills, and programs of their membership and which meet the goal of advancing fraternal values. Committees shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to serve during the tenure in office of the Board of Directors, which appoints them.

Article VI: Finance

Section A: The fiscal year shall be from _____ (date) through _____ (date).

Section B: Checks

All checks issued on behalf of the Fraternal Values Society shall be signed by the Director of Administration and Finance and countersigned by the Chairperson or The Society Advisor.

Section C: Payment

All payments due to the Fraternal Values Society shall be given to the Director of Administration and Finance, who shall record them. Checks shall not be made payable to individuals. Checks shall be made payable to the appropriate local society.

Section D: Membership Dues

1. The dues of each society member shall be an assessment per member/new member. The amount of dues shall be determined annually when the budget is passed.
2. The dues of each society member shall be payable on or before a date determined by the Board of Directors.
3. The Director of Administration and Finance is responsible for collecting all initiation dues of new members and for providing payment for all new members to the central office.

Section E: Budget

The Society prohibits the use of fund for the purchase of alcoholic beverages as well as elaborate social functions.

Article XII: Bylaws, Amendments and Rules of Order

Section A: By-laws: A copy of the By-laws must be made available to all members upon their initiation into the Society.

Section B: Amendments: These bylaws shall be amended by a vote of 2/3 majority of membership at any regular or special meeting.

Section C: Rules of Order: The Society shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, except in matters specifically provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Date Ratified: *(insert date the constitution is initially ratified)*

Date Revised: *(insert date the constitution is revised)*

Date Revised: *(insert date the constitution is revised)*