

INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPTER CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Under Article I, Section 2, of the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution, the following organization is hereby granted approval to function as a student organization for the best interest of the University community. It is the duty of this student organization to follow the Student Government Association's Constitution and Policy Series. Membership in this organization is open to all full-time undergraduate students without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, marital or veteran status ("protected status") in the conduct and operation of its educational programs and activities, including admission and employment.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Hofstra University. It will colloquially be known as IVCF.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

In response to God's love, grace and truth:

The Purpose of the Chapter is to establish and advance at Hofstra University witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord: growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture and God's purposes in the world.

ARTICLE III. DOCTRINAL BASIS

We believe in:

The only true God, the almighty Creator of all things, existing eternally in three persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--full of love and glory.

The unique divine inspiration, entire trustworthiness and authority of the Bible.

The value and dignity of all people: created in God's image to live in love and holiness but alienated from God and each other because of our sin and guilt, and justly subject to God's wrath.

Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, who lived as a perfect example, who assumed the judgment due sinners by dying in our place, and who was bodily raised from the dead and ascended as Savior and Lord.

Justification by God's grace to all who repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

The indwelling presence and transforming power of the Holy Spirit, who gives to all believers a new life and a new calling to obedient service.

The unity of all believers in Jesus Christ, manifest in worshipping and witnessing churches making disciples throughout the world.

The victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ, who will judge all people with justice and mercy, giving over the unrepentant to eternal condemnation but receiving the redeemed into eternal life.

To God be glory forever.

ARTICLE IV. CLUB ADVISER

A. The Club Adviser for this organization must be a non-student Hofstra University employee.

B. The adviser must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active leadership team of this organization. □

C. The duties of the Club Adviser shall be the following:

- a. Mentor and advise this organization on how best to fulfill its purpose. □
- b. Hold members and officers of this organization accountable. □
- c. Serve as a resource for all members □ and officers during meetings. □

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone officially connected to Hofstra University as a registered full-time undergraduate student. An Active Member is a currently enrolled student at Hofstra University who has attended 50% general or small group meetings of the Chapter for at least two (2) months. Members who miss more than 50% of chapters meetings in the preceding two (2) months will be considered inactive. Inactive members are restored to Active Member status if they attend 50% of the Chapter's meetings in a two (2) month period.

Employees (Staff) of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF)/USA assigned by IVCF to the Chapter may partner with the Chapter.

ARTICLE VI. LEADERS

Section 1.

A Executive Board of members shall guide the Chapter each year. InterVarsity Staff are full

members of the chapter Executive Board. The Executive Board may select secondary leaders to serve the Chapter each year as needed.

Section 2.

The Executive Board shall be responsible for organizing all meetings, activities and events of the Chapter in order to fulfill the Purpose of the Chapter (c.f. Article II).

Section 3.

The titles of the Executive Board Members and their duties shall be to:

a. President

- i. Preside at full meetings of the club.
- ii. Act as a member ex-officio of all club committees.
- iii. Represent the club where such representation is required, requested, or deemed appropriate and/or acceptable.
- iv. Ensure that the member roster is active and complete by updating GetInvolvedHU.
- v. The president shall lead Bible Studies, prayer meetings, and worship services as needed

b. Vice President

- i. Assume the duty of the President in the event of a resignation, removal or in the event that the President cannot for any reason fulfill his/her duties.
- ii. Act as temporary chairperson in the event that a chairperson of any committee is unable to fulfill his/her duties until a new one is appointed.
- iii. The vice president shall lead Bible Studies, prayer meetings, and worship services as needed

c. Treasurer

- i. Keep track of all records concerning club funds.
- ii. Attend Appropriations Committee meetings when necessary.
- iii. The treasurer shall lead Bible Studies, prayer meetings, and worship services as needed

d. Secretary

- i. Record all minutes during each general meeting and E-Board meeting.
- ii. Maintain a permanent file of all agendas, minutes, and meeting handouts.
- iii. Keep attendance at all club meetings and events.
- iv. The secretary shall lead Bible Studies, prayer meetings, and worship services as needed

The members of the Executive Board may take on additional duties and responsibilities in order to fulfill the Purpose of the Chapter (c.f. Article II)

Section 4.

Leadership of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Hofstra University involves significant spiritual commitment. Chapter leaders are expected to indicate their agreement with InterVarsity's Doctrine and Purpose Statements and exemplify Christ-like character, conduct and leadership (c.f. the following relevant passages: 1 Peter 5:1-7; I Timothy 3:1-13; Galatians 5:19-26; and 1 Corinthians 6: 7-11).

Section 5.

Removal of Officers: Leaders may be removed from their position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Active Members. Any Active Member of the Chapter may make a complaint against any leader in the Chapter including a member of the Executive Board.

Following the complaint, the Executive Board (or a member(s) of the Executive Board) shall meet to confer with the Chapter's IVCF Staff for advice and counsel. They shall also meet with both the complaining individual and the accused leader. No leader may be removed without first receiving a full and fair hearing from the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall make a report to the Active Members before any vote. After all procedures have been carried out, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Active Members is required to remove the officer.

A representative of the Student Government Association shall be present in order for the election proceedings to occur.

Misrepresentation on the leadership commitments (c.f. Article XII, II) shall be grounds for the immediate removal of the leader.

ARTICLE VII. OPERATIONS

Section 1.

Only Active Members shall be eligible to be nominated for leadership positions. An Active Member may receive a leadership application (c.f. Article XI) upon nominating her/himself or upon nomination by any other Active Member. Each application will ask potential leaders to express their views on matters that are necessary for advancing the purpose and core beliefs of the Chapter stated in Articles II and III of this Constitution. Leadership commitments shall be signed to be considered.

Section 2.

After review of the applications and interviews with the candidates, the Selection committee (Graduating members of the Executive Board with the advice of the IVCF Staff)(If there are not enough graduating seniors to comprise a committee, the Executive Board shall choose additional qualified members), shall recommend at least one finalist to serve in each Executive Board position and will submit those individuals to a democratic vote by the Active Members. A representative of the Student Government Association shall be present in order for the election proceedings to occur. The presiding officer shall take nominations, of qualified active members from the floor. There shall be a closed ballot; election of a candidate to a position shall be constituted by a simple majority of the Active Members present and voting. Those who receive a majority vote by the Active Members shall be named as leaders-elect and will serve a term of one (1) year. Elections will take place within a business meeting of the Spring Semester.

Section 3.

Leaders-elect assume their positions as leaders at the end of Hofstra University's semester following their election.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

The Chapter shall obtain funding in the following ways:

1. Through private donations and other fund-raising activities
2. Through funding from student fees
3. Through funding from the University, if applicable

A member of the Executive Board shall be responsible for the Chapter's finances and for administering any segregated fee grants.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

Proposed amendments to this constitution may be presented at by any Active Member at any regular meeting or may be submitted in writing to any Executive Board member and shall be ratified by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members present and voting at the following regular meeting.

Section 2.

Any amendments made to this constitution shall be presented to and approved by the Student Government Association's Rules Committee before going into effect.

Section 3.

The Chapter may not amend Article II or Article III of this Constitution without the express, written permission of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA.

ARTICLE X. REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Chapter may be removed by a majority of the Executive Board (after consultation with the IVCF Staff) if they pose any form of a threat - physical, spiritual or psychological - to any member of the organization or if they disrupt Chapter meetings or other activities.

ARTICLE XI. CHAPTER COVENANT

Active Members of the Chapter who wish to be leaders must sign the Statement of Agreement (Purpose Statement (c.f. Article II) and Doctrinal Basis (c.f. Article III)), commit to abide by the Statement of Agreement in their conduct, and agree to devote sufficient time to the Chapter, as indicated by completing and signing the leadership commitments (c.f. Article XII).

ARTICLE XII. LEADERSHIP APPLICATION

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Chapter Leadership Application
Hofstra University

As a prospective leader of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Hofstra University you are preparing for serious spiritual responsibilities. You will be expected to exemplify Christ-like character, conduct and leadership (c.f. the following relevant passages: 1 Peter 5:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Galatians 5:19-26; and 1 Corinthians 6: 7-11). This application is designed to help you understand these expectations more clearly. It will also assist the Leadership Team in getting to know you as they seek to pass on the leadership of this Chapter to faithful persons.

I. Personal Information

1. Please describe briefly your relationship with Jesus Christ and how you have come to faith in him.

2. What strengths, gifts, talents, or skills do you believe God has given you for service?

3. Briefly describe the pattern of your personal devotional life.

4. Are you involved in a local church? Which one? How would you describe your involvement there?

5. What training have you received (through IVCF or elsewhere) to develop your Christian life and leadership? What training do you intend to pursue in the future?

6. Are there any significant time commitments that you have for the next year (e.g. academics, job, athletics, clubs, musical groups, etc.) that would potentially conflict with your responsibilities as a leader of the Chapter? Are you able and willing to devote about 10 hours per week to your responsibilities as a leader? Are you able to make a year long commitment?

7. Briefly, how would you evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Chapter?

8. How do you see yourself helping to advance the purpose and mission of the Chapter next year?

II. Leadership Commitments

1. Scripture sets high standards for Christian leaders. Read and study the following

passages: 1 Peter 5:1-7; Galatians 5:19-26; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; and 1 Corinthians 6: 7-11. Bearing in mind these qualifications (and the fact that all believers are in the process of becoming more Christ-like and have not yet reached perfection), can you in good conscience make yourself available for a leadership position?

2. Read Articles II and III carefully and then answer the following questions.
 - a. Do you agree with the Chapter's Purpose?
 - b. Do you affirm the IVCF Doctrinal Basis?
 - c. Do you agree to conduct yourself publicly and privately as a person who agrees with each element of the Doctrinal Basis and the standards for Christian Leaders?
 - d. In the event that you have a disagreement with the other leaders over the practical meaning and application of the Purpose and Doctrinal Basis to your life, do you agree to submit that disagreement promptly to the Executive Board and Active Members and abide by any decision made by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Active Members (c.f. Article VI, Section 4)?

I affirm my personal commitment to these beliefs, purposes and conduct.

(Signature)

(Date)