

4 **A Resolution to Oppose the Blanket IFC Suspension Ban at The Ohio State**
5 **University**

6 Imani Davis (for herself, Julia Dennen, Caitlin Cromes, Alexis McKenzie, and Bailey
7 Hoppes) introduced the following legislation to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

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11 **Whereas** the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students
12 at The Ohio State University, and

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14 **Whereas** students involved in Greek life at The Ohio State University account for 13%
15 of the undergraduate student population, and

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17 **Whereas** the Interfraternity Council at Ohio State consists of 37 different chapters
18 ranging in size from 15 members to 175 members per chapter, and

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20 **Whereas** the mission statement of Ohio State’s Sorority and Fraternity Life states that
21 “Sorority and Fraternity Life within the Office of Student Life strives to cultivate
22 chapters who live their values; to promote individual member growth and development,
23 to engage alumni and to prepare members of responsible citizenship, all in accordance
24 with our Standards of Excellence,”¹ and

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26 **Whereas** those Standards of Excellence include obtaining and maintaining a minimum of
27 a 2.5 GPA, being enrolled in at least 12 credit hours, and attending mandatory events
28 surrounding: diversity, health and wellness, and alcohol skills training every semester in
29 order to achieve that mission, and

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31 **Whereas** all members of Ohio State fraternities engage in active community service and
32 philanthropy efforts year-round, and

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34 **Whereas** on November 16th of 2017, an email was issues by the Office of Sorority and
35 Fraternity Life that *all* IFC fraternities are under suspension of “all social, recruitment,
36 and new member activities,”² and

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¹ https://ohiounion.osu.edu/get_involved/sorority_fraternity

² Appendix A, lines 101-163

38 **Whereas** Ohio State chapters, IFC executive members, or national headquarters of IFC
39 chapters were neither consulted nor alerted about this suspension before the email was
40 sent, and

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42 **Whereas** in the last 2 months, Florida State University, Louisiana State University, and
43 Texas State University suspended Greek life activities after a fraternity pledge died at
44 each institution, and

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46 **Whereas** after a week of suspension, LSU allowed some Greek life activities to resume,
47 including all university-sponsored homecoming events, philanthropy or service events,
48 intramural events, and meal services at the houses, including new members, and

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50 **Whereas** the University of Michigan's student-run Interfraternity Council suspended all
51 Greek life social activities and new member education programs in the wake of multiple
52 allegations of sexual misconduct claims involving fraternity brothers, the allegations of 6
53 dangerous instances of hazing, more than 30 hospital transports during the October 7th
54 football game against Michigan State University, as well as 7 more hospital transports
55 during Halloween weekend, and

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57 **Whereas** this decision at Ohio State was made due to 11 out of the 37 chapters being
58 under investigation over the course of the Fall 2017 semester for possible violations of
59 the OSU Student Code of Conduct, and

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61 **Whereas** the details of any chapter's investigations are confidential and unlisted, and

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63 **Whereas** the Office of Student Conduct is currently understaffed, only having 3 full-time
64 employees as opposed to their usual 7, and

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66 **Whereas** an understaffed Office of Student Conduct cannot properly, timely, or
67 thoroughly investigate alleged violations;

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69 **Therefore, Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government does not
70 support the blanket suspension of all 37 chapters without proper investigation and
71 consideration of the actions of individual chapters, and

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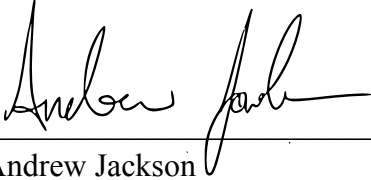
73 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports the
74 Interfraternity Council in their efforts to have recruitment and new member activities
75 reinstated by the proposed date of January 7th, 2018, as the result of these activities being
76 suspended after this date could be detrimental to many chapters.

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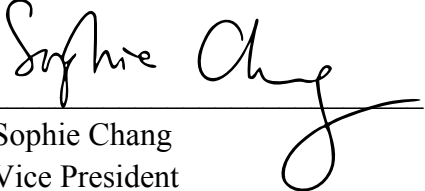
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Floor Vote: Passed



Andrew Jackson
President



Sophie Chang
Vice President

Date Adopted: November 29, 2017

Date Terminated: _____

95 **Appendix A**

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97 Date: November 16, 2017

98 To: IFC Chapter Presidents

99 From: Ryan Lovell

100 Senior Director, Sorority and Fraternity Life

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102 Subject: **Social, Recruitment and New Member Activities Suspended**

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104
105 The Greek community at Ohio State has a long and rich tradition of leadership, service
106 and brotherhood/sisterhood. However, when individual members or organizations fail to
107 live up to the standards and values set forth by the university, your chapters and your
108 international organizations, the entire Greek community suffers.

109 It's deeply troubling that eleven of our Interfraternity Council (IFC) chapters have been
110 under investigation this semester for possible violations of the Code of Student Conduct,
111 which represents more than a quarter of our IFC chapters. This is an unacceptably high
112 number, and the university will not tolerate behavior that puts the health and safety of
113 students at risk. As a result:

114 **I am hereby suspending all social, recruitment and new member activities for**
115 **Interfraternity Council chapters until further notice, effectively immediately.**

116 This proactive step is being taken so that the IFC community takes a pause to reflect and
117 create individual, actionable strategies for the future. Our expectation is that each chapter
118 will develop a plan and implementation timeline to ensure that the culture of their
119 organization is aligned with the stated values of Ohio State's Greek community,
120 responsibilities outlined in the university's Code of Student Conduct and expectations of
121 their respective national or international organization. As always, we will make the
122 resources of our Sorority and Fraternity Life team available to support you as you
123 complete this important work. Additionally, we are planning forums to further support
124 and engage in proactive dialogue with you.

125 During the period of this directive, your chapter may request to participate in essential
126 activities only. Essential activities may include, but are not limited to, standing
127 chapter/executive board meetings and/or long standing philanthropic events. Social
128 activities of any kind are not essential activities, nor are any activities that include
129 alcohol. Please be aware that your peer organizations will be informed of this directive.

130 **List of Essential Activities.** As a result of this directive, all IFC chapters are required to
131 provide the Sorority and Fraternity Life staff a list of your organization's essential
132 activities through January 7, 2018, including dates, times, locations and the rationale
133 behind why your organization believes the activity is essential to the operation of your
134 chapter. Lists must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2017, and can

135 be forwarded to sfl@osu.edu. Our team will review your information and take your
136 recommendations under advisement. Until then, you are not to engage in any activities.
137 **Organization Notice.** Chapter leadership is required to provide notice that your chapter
138 has been issued this directive to all members of your chapter, including new members of
139 any yet-to-be initiated members involved in a new member or “pledge” process. You
140 must send this notice via email, with a copy to sfl@osu.edu, by 4:00 p.m. on Friday,
141 November 17. Your email must explicitly state that no further activities may occur
142 unless they are essential activities approved in advance by the Sorority and Fraternity
143 Life staff. You are encouraged to include a copy of this letter with your notification
144 message.

145 Failure to comply with the terms of this directive may result in disciplinary action under
146 the Code of Student Conduct for Failure to Comply with University Authority.

147 To be direct, we expect the Interfraternity Council community to join together and
148 become a full partner in creating a culture that truly reflects the values of the Ohio State
149 Greek community. We need your action in making clear that misguided and
150 inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. You have our full support in this effort, and
151 we look forward to working collaboratively with each of you and with the IFC Executive
152 Board in setting a positive path forward.

153

154 Cc: IFC Advisors
155 IFC National Organizations
156 IFC Executive Board Officers
157 Sorority and Fraternity Life Staff