



Bylaws 2026-2028

Amended by the Delegates to the 53rd Biennial Conclave
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FarmHouse International Fraternity Bylaws 2026-2028

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ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

SECTION 1.

The membership of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be composed of all chapter, associate chapter, alumni and associate members initiated by chapters and associate chapters of the international organization and shall include all honorary members of the International Fraternity.

SECTION 2.

References of chapter throughout the bylaws shall apply to associate chapter members as well - with the primary exception being that an associate chapter cannot seat a voting delegate at Conclave until such time as a charter has been granted.

SECTION 3.

The Fraternity recognizes one class of candidates seeking chapter membership in FarmHouse Fraternity: new member.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION 1. NEW MEMBERSHIP

Men seeking chapter membership and who have completed the Star Ceremony will be recognized as new members. Procedures for termination of new members shall be within the sole discretion of the chapters, and the section of these bylaws devoted to Termination of Membership does not apply to new members.

SECTION 2. CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Chapter membership is conferred by the local FarmHouse chapter. It may be conferred upon any male student enrolled in a graduate, professional or undergraduate school of the college or university at which the chapter is located, provided that each of the following conditions is satisfied:

- A. he demonstrates qualities of character, scholarship and professional excellence to which FarmHouse men aspire;
- B. he has completed the necessary minimum amount of academic work as stipulated by the school and/or by the local Interfraternity Council for pledging and/or initiation of fraternity members;
- C. his grades are at least as high as those required by the school, the local interfraternity council or the North-American Interfraternity Conference, whichever is higher (but it is recommended that each chapter establish higher scholastic requirements);

- D. he is of good moral character;
- E. he gives promise to reflecting credit upon the Fraternity;
- F. he respects the agricultural heritage of the Fraternity;
- G. he has been elected to membership in accordance with the chapter's voting procedures;
- H. Members out of the house and away from campus on internships, exchange programs, or similar situations are eligible for temporary inactive membership status and exempt from international dues for a period of absence; said period of absence must be at least one term (either semester or quarter). Temporary inactive membership status may be granted only after consultation with the International Office.

SECTION 3. ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Alumni membership status is conferred by the International Executive Director.

- A. It is routinely conferred upon a chapter member when he is reported by his chapter secretary as having:
 - i. satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which he was a candidate at the time of his initiation; or
 - ii. satisfactorily completed four (4) academic years of credit and having been enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a professional school that requires more than four (4) years of study.
- B. A chapter, by two-thirds vote and with unanimous approval of its Chapter Advisory Committee, may request the International Executive Director to grant alumni status to a chapter member who:
 - i. has found it necessary to withdraw from school before completing normal requirements for the baccalaureate degree or its equivalent; or
 - ii. has transferred to another educational institution; or
 - iii. has been enrolled in a professional school; or
 - iv. has found it necessary to enroll for a fifth year in order to
 - v. complete graduation requirements in his curriculum; or
 - vi. has married; or
 - vii. has proven extenuating circumstances, and requested alumni status.
- C. For members who graduate/depart the chapter still owing money to the chapter, chapters may withhold alumni membership for up to six months after graduation or after being approved for alumni status. Once all funds are paid, chapters should contact the International Office to confirm alumni status and notify the member that he has been granted full alumni status. After six months if the chapter hasn't notified the International Office of a decision to terminate membership, the International Office should contact the chapter to follow up.

SECTION 4. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate membership is conferred by the local chapter. It may be conferred upon any man who:

- A. demonstrates the qualities of character, scholarship, and professional excellence to which FarmHouse men aspire;
- B. has shown interest in FarmHouse Fraternity;
- C. is not a member of another social fraternity; and
- D. In instances where a chapter does not exist, providing the candidate meets the qualifications in A., B. and C. above, an association may grant associate membership with the approval of the executive director.

SECTION 5. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Honorary membership may be conferred only by the International Executive Board. It is usually conferred at a Biennial Conclave. Candidates for honorary membership may be nominated by:

- A. any chapter upon unanimous vote and with full concurrence of its Chapter Advisory Committee; or
- B. any FarmHouse association upon unanimous vote of its governing board; or
- C. a special committee on honorary membership appointed by the International President.

Candidates, however nominated, must be unanimously elected by the International Executive Board before honorary membership may be conferred.

SECTION 6. GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

A graduate student may be initiated as a chapter member under Section 1 of this Article or, if he qualifies, as an associate member under Section 4 of this Article.

SECTION 7. NON-DUPLICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

No person may become a member who is a member of any other nationally recognized undergraduate social fraternity.

SECTION 8. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

A chapter member of FarmHouse Fraternity who desires to change his membership from one chapter to another may do so under the following conditions:

- A. he must be a member of FarmHouse Fraternity in good standing at the time of his application for change of membership.
- B. he must be enrolled at the institution for which the chapter he desires to transfer his membership is affiliated.
- C. a motion brought before the chapter requiring a transfer of membership is approved by at least a simple majority of the voting members of the new chapter after his application has been before said chapter.
- D. The transfer of membership does not change the chapter of initiation.

SECTION 9. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any chapter member may be terminated from membership in FarmHouse Fraternity by: (1) a unanimous vote of the chapter executive committee, chapter judiciary committee, or standards board; or (2) a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all chapter members at any regular chapter meeting. The member must have been given an opportunity to be heard on his own behalf prior to the vote for expulsion taken by any chapter executive committee, judiciary committee, or standards board (whichever is making the decision) or before a vote for expulsion is taken by the chapter at any regular chapter meeting. The chapter may overturn the termination decision made by any chapter executive committee, judiciary committee or standards board and reinstate the member by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all chapter members, provided a proposal to overturn the termination has been appropriately made and discussed at a chapter meeting prior to the meeting in which the vote is taken. An Advisor must be present for all votes to terminate membership.
- B. The decision to terminate membership, including an outline of the steps taken, shall be submitted in writing (e.g., via email) to the FarmHouse International Office within ten (10) business days following the chapter vote, in order for membership records to be appropriately updated.
- C. When a chapter does not take action to terminate membership of a chapter member, a request may be made by a chapter member or an association member for termination of the member to the IEB. The IEB may consider termination of the member as outlined in the Policy Manual. The IEB may also take action to terminate the membership of a chapter member in egregious circumstances. The member must have been given an opportunity to be heard on his own behalf prior to the vote for expulsion taken by the IEB.
- D. Any alumnus may be terminated from membership in FarmHouse Fraternity by the association affiliated with his chapter of initiation, or by the International Executive Board if no active association exists for that chapter. The alumnus shall receive at least ten (10) days' notice (or as required by local jurisdiction) prior to the meeting at which termination is considered and shall be given the opportunity to speak on his own behalf prior to the vote.

SECTION 10. EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to the previous membership categories may be conferred by the unanimous approval of the International Executive Board members. Request is to be made by petition from the local chapter, having unanimous approval of the members of the Chapter Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE III

INTERNATIONAL BOARD

SECTION 1.

The International Executive Board of FarmHouse Fraternity shall consist of nine (9) directors elected from the membership at large. From this body, three board officers shall be elected: the International President, the International Vice President and the Treasurer. The Executive Director shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member and Secretary.

SECTION 2.

To serve on the International Executive Board one must be a FarmHouse Fraternity member in good standing having attained alumni, associate, or honorary membership. All International Executive Board officers and directors, as well as all officers appointed, and committees established by the International Executive Board are protected by Directors and Officer Liability Insurance as outlined in the FarmHouse International Fraternity Insurance Policies and while acting within the scope of their role.

SECTION 3.

Directors elected from the membership at large serve terms of six (6) years or until their successors have been elected. Three (3) directors of those elected from the membership at large are elected at each Biennial Conclave.

The International President, International Vice President and Treasurer are elected at each Biennial Conclave to serve a two (2) year term.

SECTION 4.

Directors are nominated and elected via a slating process as outlined below:

- A. A Nominations and Elections Committee and Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the International President. The Nominations and Elections Committee should be made up of not less than five (5) initiated members.
- B. The Nominations and Elections Committee is responsible for working with the Executive Director to solicit nominations for the International Executive Board. The Nominations Committee will formally present the International Executive Board election calendar on the *Pearls and Rubies* and via other official means of Fraternity correspondence.
- C. Nominations shall be open for the 60 day period between 180 days and 120 days prior to the Biennial Conclave. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall consider all otherwise qualified nominees seeking to understand what qualifies the member to serve on the International Executive Board. The Nominations and Elections Committee may interview nominees and consider insight gleaned as long as all nominees are afforded the same opportunities. In addition, the Nominations and Elections Committee should work to ensure a diversity of geographic distribution and representation, age and specific professional areas of expertise of directors serving on the International Executive Board. In consideration of the International President, International Vice President and the Treasurer the Nominations and Elections Committee shall consider the desires of those currently serving on the International Executive Board.

- D. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall present a slate of International Executive Board directors, including a slate of the International President, International Vice President and Treasurer not less than 60 days prior to the Biennial Conclave.
- E. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall oversee the election process at the Biennial Conclave.

SECTION 5.

If the requirements set forth in Article III, Section 4, paragraph D are met, a motion for approval of the International Executive Board officers and directors shall be presented at the Biennial Conclave. Approval of the slate constitutes a simple majority delegate of votes cast (reference Article X, Section 1). Should the slate be approved, those appearing on the slate assume their role at the close of the Biennial Conclave. Should the slate be defeated, nominations from the floor will be accepted.

If the requirements set forth in Article III, Section 4, paragraph D are not met, the slate will not be presented, and nominees may be presented from the floor by any qualified delegate. Each nominee is elected individually by ballot. One vote per open seat on the International Executive Board is given to each delegate. Delegates may cast one vote per nominee.

SECTION 6.

Should any director die or resign, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the International Executive Board subject to the approval of the next Biennial Conclave.

SECTION 7.

Any director may be recalled from office for unsatisfactory service or nonperformance of duty by a two-thirds vote of delegates of the Biennial Conclave.

SECTION 8.

The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Executive Director shall constitute an Executive Committee, which may transact business of the Fraternity, subject to ratification by the International Executive Board.

SECTION 9.

A majority of the elected directors shall constitute a quorum of the International Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES OF BOARD OFFICERS

SECTION 1.

It shall be the duty of the International President to preside at all meetings of the Biennial Conclave, of the International Executive Board, and of the Executive Committee, and all other official International Fraternity events and to bring before the Biennial Conclave or the International Executive Board all matters pertaining to the welfare of the organization.

SECTION 2.

It shall be the duty of the International Vice President to act as executive officer in the absence of the International President, and to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President and to oversee the work of all officers appointed and committees established by the International Executive Board.

SECTION 3.

The Executive Director is hired and directed by the International Board to perform duties as outlined in Fraternity board policy and consistent with the Fraternity's strategic plan. The Executive Director shall receive such remuneration as may be determined by the International Executive Board. The Executive Director shall be a nonvoting member of the International Executive Board.

ARTICLE V

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1.

The International Executive Board shall be empowered to interpret and apply the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the Fraternity when such is necessary, and the Biennial Conclave is not in session and to serve as the appellate body for all matters of discipline and decorum. Any chapter shall have the right of appeal to the Biennial Conclave from the interpretation and action of the International Executive Board in such matters. The Board shall review, revise and adopt a policy governing individual and chapter conduct processes within thirty (30) days of each Conclave concluding.

SECTION 2.

The International Executive Board may establish committees as they see appropriate and appointment members to these committees.

SECTION 3.

With at least 120 days advance notice to Chapters or Associations, the International Executive Board may levy fees for the advancement of the Fraternity, excluding fees for membership and initiation, which are governed by Article XII, Section 3. when

ARTICLE VI

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAPTERS

SECTION 1.

A chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity may be established in any college or university granting a bachelor's degree.

- A. Those interested in becoming a FarmHouse expansion group shall refer to the Fraternity's policy and requirements for interest groups, colonies and chartering.
- B. Such an organization shall petition the International Executive Board for a charter. If this petition receives the approval of the International Executive Board by a two-thirds vote, a charter shall be granted, and the chapter installed under the direction of the International Executive Board.

SECTION 2.

No chapter's bylaws, rules of order nor any other governing documents kept by the chapter may supersede The Bylaws of FarmHouse International Fraternity and official documented policies and procedures of FarmHouse Fraternity. It is the responsibility of each chapter to regularly review their governing documents to ensure rules complement and never contradict the Fraternity's governing documents.

ARTICLE VII

FARMHOUSE ASSOCIATIONS

SECTION 1.

There may be established in each place where a chapter exists, an association composed of membership as follows:

- A. alumni and associate members of the local chapter of FarmHouse regardless of place of residence;
- B. alumni and association members of the chapters of FarmHouse Fraternity who reside in that place; and
- C. honorary members of FarmHouse Fraternity residing in that place.

SECTION 2.

In places that do not have a chapter, there may be established a FarmHouse association for that area provided there are at least a total of ten (10) alumni, associate and honorary members. Membership should be comprised as follows:

- A. alumni and associate members of the chapters of FarmHouse Fraternity who reside in that place; and

- B. honorary members of FarmHouse Fraternity residing in that place. Place is as defined by the Constitution of the association.

SECTION 3.

Honorary, Associate and Alumni members shall have full voting rights in the association of which they are immediate participating members. Associations may establish dues for participating members; however, voting privileges may not be limited to dues-paying members.

SECTION 4.

Each association should have articles of incorporation and bylaws as prescribed by their state of incorporation. Neither document shall contradict the International Fraternity's governing documents and a copy of said documents should be kept on file with the International Fraternity.

SECTION 5.

Each FarmHouse association treasurer shall be bonded for an amount equal to the maximum amount of cash and negotiable securities for which the board of directors determines he is likely to be responsible. The cost of the bond shall be paid by the association.

SECTION 6.

Each association shall annually remit an association fee as set by the International Board.

SECTION 7.

A relationship between the Fraternity and association is recognized in the form of a charter, granted by the International Executive Board. Association charters may be revoked by a unanimous vote of the International Executive Board so long as the association receives thirty (30) days' notice to a hearing and a chance to speak at the hearing.

SECTION 8.

No association's bylaws, rules of order, nor any other governing documents kept by the chapter may supersede The Bylaws of FarmHouse International Fraternity and official documented policies and procedures of FarmHouse Fraternity. It is the responsibility of each association to regularly review their governing documents to ensure rules complement and never contradict the Fraternity's governing documents.

ARTICLE VIII

BIENNIAL MEETINGS (CONCLAVE)

SECTION 1.

Meetings of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be held every two years and shall be known as the Biennial Conclave.

SECTION 2.

The official body of the Biennial Conclave shall consist of the members of the International Executive Board, one delegate from each chapter who must be a chapter member, and one delegate from each FarmHouse Association who may be a chapter, alumni, associate or honorary member. Each chapter and association is required to send delegate representation to the Biennial Conclave.

SECTION 3.

The Executive Director shall verify prior to each Conclave whether that each chapter and association has paid in full all financial obligations owed to the International Fraternity; and no chapter or association delegate shall be seated unless it has been verified that all his respective chapter's or association's financial obligations owed to the International Fraternity have been paid.

ARTICLE IX

QUORUM (CONCLAVE)

SECTION 1.

A majority of all the delegates from the chapters and associations entitled to send delegates, together with the members of the International Executive Board present, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Biennial Conclave.

ARTICLE X

VOTING (CONCLAVE)

SECTION 1.

Each delegate to the Biennial Conclave shall be entitled to vote on each proceeding only when present. International Executive Board members shall be entitled to vote on all matters other than votes related to new Board members. Additionally, International Executive Board members are restricted from voting on future amendments that would give Board member voting rights for new International Executive Board members. Voting decisions shall be based on the number of votes cast.

ARTICLE XI

INSIGNIA

SECTION 1.

The colors of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be: Green, signifying spring, Gold, signifying autumn; and White, signifying winter.

SECTION 2.

The flower shall be red and white roses in equal numbers symbolizing the Pearls and Rubies of the official membership badge.

SECTION 3.

The official jewelry shall consist of a membership badge as described in the ritual, shield pin, coat-of-arms and recognition pin. The shield pin shall be a small green shield with the letters FH inscribed upon it. The recognition pin shall be a miniature gold FH. Star and Crescent lapel buttons procured prior to January 1, 1949, shall continue to be official recognition buttons of the Fraternity.

ARTICLE XII

FEES AND DUES

SECTION 1.

Each candidate for chapter, associate and affiliate membership shall, before he is initiated, pay to the Executive Director, through the local chapter treasurer, an international initiation fee as established by the delegates at the Biennial Conclave.

SECTION 2.

Each chapter member and new member shall, at the beginning of each semester or quarter pay to the Executive Director, through the local chapter treasurer, semester or quarter membership dues as established by the delegates at the Biennial Conclave and in addition shall pay to the local chapter such dues and assessments as shall be levied by action of the chapter.

SECTION 3.

International initiation fees and international semester and quarter membership dues shall be established by simple majority vote of a Biennial Conclave. No change in the amount of such international initiation fees or membership dues shall be made unless notice of a proposal to change shall have been mailed to all chapter and association secretaries at least four (4) months in advance of the Biennial Conclave at which the change is voted upon.

This requirement of notice of a proposal to change shall not be so construed as to prevent amending of any such proposal by a majority of delegates voting at the Conclave.

The International Executive Board may increase membership and initiation fees annually, but not to exceed the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all goods but not to exceed 5% for the previous 12 months. Changes to fees driven by CPI must be communicated by April 1st to Chapters for the following academic year.

ARTICLE XIII

PUBLICATIONS

SECTION 1.

The publication of FarmHouse Fraternity shall be known as *Pearls and Rubies*.

SECTION 2.

The name of the official publication of each chapter or association shall be selected by the chapter or association but shall not be the same as that of the international publication.

ARTICLE XIV

NAMES OF CHAPTERS

Each chapter shall be known by the name of the institution where it exists. Note: For Example, FarmHouse Fraternity at the University of _____.

ARTICLE XV

CHAPTER OFFICERS

SECTION 1.

The chapter officers shall be President, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Recruitment, Director of New Member Education, Director of Alumni Relations, Director of Administration, Director of House Operations, Director of Risk Management, Director of Scholarship, Social & Brotherhood Chair, Community Service/Philanthropy Chair, Kitchen Manager, Total Member Educator, Chaplain, Athletic/Intramural Chair, Historian, Song Leader and such others as each chapter may designate.

SECTION 2.

The Chapter President, Director of Risk Management, and Director of New Member Education shall be elected by ballot and installed by the end of December and will serve for a one-year term. Vacancies may be filled in accordance with procedures outlined in Robert's Rules of Order or as specified in the bylaws of each chapter. The International Fraternity will have no involvement in the selection of officers.

ARTICLE XVI

DUTIES OF CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chapters should refer to the International Fraternity website for resources regarding expectations and recommendations for each Chapter Officer position.

ARTICLE XVII

EXECUTIVE AND AUDITING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1.

The President, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Recruitment, Director of New Member Education and Director of Administration of the chapter, and such others as each chapter may designate, shall constitute the Executive Committee of the chapter, and the Director of Administration of the chapter shall be Secretary of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2.

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to decide all questions of discipline and decorum, to act as tribunal unto which all grievances shall be brought, to act on questions pertaining to the general welfare of the chapter, and to perform such other duties as may be provided by the members of the chapter. It shall further be the duty of the Executive Committee to present to the chapter, at the beginning of each school year and at any other time when it seems necessary, a set of regulations that shall govern the conduct of the members of the chapter. Such regulations shall become chapter rules upon the approval by a two-thirds (b) vote of the chapter members.

SECTION 3.

An auditing committee and licensed professional auditor (optional) shall be selected at the beginning of each school year. It shall be the duty of the auditing committee and the auditor (optional) to inspect and audit all financial records of chapter offices concerning chapter business at least once a year and/or at the end of the officers' term. The auditing committee shall include alumni members, association officers, chapter advisors and chapter members. The outgoing or current Vice President of Finance or those who handled the books or had check-writing privileges should not serve on the committee.

ARTICLE XVIII

CHAPTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SECTION 1.

Each chapter shall maintain at least three (3) chapter advisors, of which at least one is a university faculty member and one is an alumnus, association or honorary member (one individual can fulfill both requirements). The advisors shall constitute the Chapter Advisory Committee, whose advice may be sought by or freely given to the chapter, association and the International Executive Board on all matters pertaining to the welfare of the chapter.

ARTICLE XIX

NEW MEMBER EDUCATION AND INITIATION

SECTION 1.

The formal initiation of candidates for membership shall be as prescribed in the Ritual. Special exceptions can be permitted upon the written consent of the International Board. The exceptions are to be kept on file in the International Office.

SECTION 2.

New member education and any associated activities, including initiation, shall not include hazing in any form. The definition of hazing used by FarmHouse International Fraternity is outlined in the Policy Manual.

New member status may be held for a maximum of eight weeks, or the local university's standard, or the North-American Interfraternity Conference standard, whichever is lower. After this period of time a new member must be moved to chapter membership or terminated. Procedures for termination of new members shall be decided by chapters, and the section of these bylaws devoted to Termination of Membership does not apply to new members.

ARTICLE XX

CHAPTER MEETINGS

SECTION 1.

Chapter meetings shall be held regularly at least twice a month during the regular term.

SECTION 2.

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all FarmHouse Fraternity business in cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of FarmHouse Fraternity.

ARTICLE XXI

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1.

To be considered at any Biennial Conclave, all proposed revisions and amendments to these bylaws must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director and distributed to all chapters and associations at least 120 days prior to the Opening Business of Conclave. Additional bylaw amendments may be brought before the Conclave delegates with a 2/3rds vote of the delegates in the Opening Business Meeting to consider and a 2/3rds vote to pass for adoption.