

Tennessee FarmHouse Fraternity Constitution

Article I. Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Tennessee Chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity.

Article II. Objectives

Section 1. The objectives of this organization shall be:

- a. To build men
- b. To promote intellectual, physical, spiritual, social & moral development of its members
- c. To build bonds of brotherhood among its members
- d. To establish a home for worthy students while in college

Article III. Constitution & By-Laws

Section 1. This Constitution of the Tennessee Chapter of FarmHouse corresponds to the international organization's By-Laws.

Section 2. The Tennessee chapter of FarmHouse will form its own By-Laws, which do not conflict with those of the international organization.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Historian to maintain a Chapter membership registry and scrapbook.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. The membership of the Tennessee chapter of FarmHouse shall be composed of all chapter, alumni and associate members and shall comply with International FarmHouse By-Laws, including all honorary members of the Chapter fraternity.

Article V. Membership Qualifications

Section 1. Any male student who has completed or is enrolled in one semester's work towards a college degree in agriculture or related science, or has a rural background, or shared an agricultural interest, or demonstrates those qualities of character, scholarship and professional excellence to which FarmHouse men aspire, is of good moral character, and gives promise that he will not seek membership in any other (inter)national men's social fraternity.

Section 2. The six classes of membership are:

1. New Member

2. Active Member
3. Inactive Member
4. Alumni Member
5. Honorary Member
6. Associate Member

Section 3. To be eligible for new membership and to be a New Member, a man must:

1. Be enrolled as a full-time student.
2. If he is at least a second term Freshman, have at least a 2.70 graduation index and at least a 2.70 term index for the past term. A first term or incoming freshman must have at least an SAT score of 900 OR an ACT score of 20 AND a high school GPA of at least 3.0(unweighted). A transfer student must have at least a 2.70 cumulative index.
3. Must be in 1 other organization on Campus (if coming out of High School, must have been in 1 extra-curricular activity during High School
4. Must provide evidence of Community Service (Service Club, Organizations, etc...)
5. Not be a member of any other social/general fraternity.
- 6. Be of good moral character.**
7. Give promise of reflecting credit upon the Fraternity.
8. Signify his willingness to perform all of the duties that are required of him by the organization, providing that he is not required to violate his personal integrity with regard to political, moral, or religious beliefs.

Section 4. Election to New Member Membership.

1. Membership is by invitation of the Chapter Members and current New Members only.
2. A quorum of at least 2/3 of the Chapter and current New Members must be present to vote for membership.
3. All votes are secret ballot or other mean of voting non-visible to members of the chapter and counted by the VP-Recruitment and at least one other member designated by the president.
4. Provided he meets the above requirements, an incoming freshman or first term student may be extended an invitation with 50% or greater positive votes of those voting.

Section 5. New Member Initiation Process

1. Achieve at least a 2.70 GPA during his first term of new membership to become a Chapter Member.
2. Satisfactorily complete the New Member education program established by the chapter.
3. Achieve at least a 2.70 GPA during his first term of membership.
4. If a Chapter Member fails to achieve a term index of at least a 2.5 GPA for two consecutive terms, his status as a member is terminated.

A New Member may be initiated:

1. When he receives a 3/4 positive vote of the chapter membership,

provided a quorum of at least 2/3 of the eligible voting members are present.

2. The formal initiation of a member shall be as prescribed in the Ritual and International Bylaws of FarmHouse Fraternity. Initiation, for New Members, is an affirmation of FarmHouse ideals and standards accomplished through teamwork, education, and self-Inspection. For Chapter Members, it is a reaffirmation of the ideals and standards.

Section 6. Alumni Member- Any Active Member who has completed eight semesters of college study or 124 semester hours college credit, or the number of hours in his college to obtain a B.S. or B.A. degree may be granted alumni status, if he receives a 2/3 vote from the active chapter.

- a. Members who obtain a B.S., B.A., M.S., M.A., or Ph.D. degree
Are automatically considered alumni without any action by the membership.
- b. In accordance with the International FarmHouse By-Laws, alumni status may be requested to the Executive Director by way of a 2/3 vote of the chapter and unanimous approval of the Faculty Advisory Committee for Active Members who have married, have transferred to another educational institution, have found it necessary to withdraw from school or have proven extenuating circumstances.

Section 7. Honorary Member- Honorary membership maybe conferred only by the International Executive Board. Refer to Section 5 of FarmHouse International By-laws for qualification details.

Section 8. Associate Member- Associate Membership is conferred upon any man who (refer to Section 4 in the International Fraternity Bylaws.)

Section 9. Termination of Membership
Termination of Membership follows the guidelines set forth by International Bylaws.

Section 10. An Active Member of another FarmHouse Chapter who desires to change his membership to the Tennessee Chapter of FarmHouse may do so under the following conditions:

- a. He must be an Active Member of FarmHouse at the time of his application for change of membership.
- b. He must receive a 2/3 vote of his Chapter of initiation in favor of permitting him to withdraw his membership from the Initiating Chapter.
- c. He must receive a unanimous vote of the Active membership of the Tennessee Chapter of FarmHouse, after his application has been before the chapter for at least three weeks.

Section 11. Voting concerning membership into the Chapter and termination of a member or New Member from the Chapter shall be done by secret ballot.

Article VI. New Member Education

- Section 1. Two four week new member education period shall be established each semester. date to begin new member education shall be assigned by the Vice President of New Member Education.
- a. A week by week schedule for each semester's recruitment, New Member education and initiation periods shall be made available prior to each semester by the Vice President of New Member Education.
 - b. A detailed syllabus for the two four week period shall be developed and distributed to New Members at their first new member class meeting. Such a syllabus should detail dates for meetings, topics for weekly exams, videos, and guest speakers at the meetings.
 - c. The schedule and syllabus shall be strictly adhered to each semester to ensure that each of the New Member education classes receives the attention and focus that it needs.
- Section 2. Active Members shall stress the importance of extending New Membership status to only those men who show evidence that they can excel academically, physically, spiritually, socially, and morally.
- Section 3. Any New Member may be dropped by a 2/3 majority vote of all the Active Members of the chapter.
- Section 4. All Actives are encouraged to live in the house following their New Member education period, unless residential hall contracts, apartment leases, or other circumstances dictate otherwise. All Active members are encouraged to live in the chapter house until house capacity of 18 is reached. The Executive Committee shall decide upon requests to live out of house.
- Section 5. All New Members are allowed to miss only one Chapter meeting during their New Member Education period, unless excused by the Vice President of New Member Education.
- Section 6. Expectations of new members before the Crescent Ceremony:
- a. Posses a "Know It" book containing names of all the New Members, Active Members, Association Officers, Advisors and key Alumni.
 - b. To pass all weekly exams with a grade of at least 80 percent oral and written. Items to be asked on the test will be decided by the VP of New Member Education.
 - c. To construct a paddle for his Big Brother.
 - d. To attend Sunday church service, Pearls Ceremony and to invite his parents to the Pearls ceremony.
 - e. To have at least a 2.70 GPA or be put on academic probation for the semester of activation.
 - f. To participate in the completion of a New Member project.

- Section 7. All New Members are expected to read and become familiar with the FarmHouse New Membership Handbook, and the Tennessee Chapter Constitution and By-Laws. These books will be kept with the test files at all times.
- Section 8. All New Members are expected to visit and personally know the Chapter Advisors.
- Section 9. It is the responsibility and duty of the Active Chapter to present candidates for New Membership with this Constitution before their Interfraternity Council Bid Cards are presented.

Article VII. Chapter Officers

- Section 1. The major chapter officers shall be President, Vice President of Recruitment, Vice President of New Membership Education, Vice President of Finance, Director of Risk Management, Vice President of Scholarship, Director of Alumni Relations, House Manager, and Vice President of Administration.
- Section 2. The Executive Committee shall appoint the minor officer positions as outlined in the Tennessee Chapter By-Laws.
- Section 3. Sign-up sheets for the nine major officer positions shall be posted one week before the election of new Chapter officers. The major Chapter officers will be elected by ballot and installed at least two weeks before the close of the fall semester, and they shall serve a one-year term or until their successors have been elected and installed.
- Section 4. Fines may be issued by any of the major officers with a 2/3 approval by Executive Committee.
- Section 5. All Active Members with a previous semester GPA of 3.00 or higher are eligible to hold a major office.

Article VIII. Duties of Major Officers

- Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings, enforce discipline and the observance of the Constitution and By-Laws, decide all questions of order and appoint all committees not otherwise provided for. The President shall serve as the official representative and voice of the chapter at all times, and shall be a member of the Association Board of Directors.
- Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice President for Recruitment to chair the Recruitment Committee to conduct all recruitment activities of the chapter. He should be responsible for conducting a 365-day recruitment program for the chapter. He is responsible for enforcing university and FarmHouse rules and policies at recruitment events; keeping in contact with alumni for potential recruits; and is responsible for determining appropriate grade point averages, activities, and test scores for recruitment.

- Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Vice President for New Membership Education to organize an 6-8 week new member education program with the rules and policies of the chapter, how business is handled, and teach the new members about the history of FarmHouse – both locally and internationally. He shall also serve as an intermediary between members and new members.
- Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Director of Alumni Relations to establish a strong relationship and lines of communication with the chapter alumni, association, and advisor(s). He shall also plan and direct alumni events planned far in advance designed for the alumni, not the undergraduates. In addition, he shall recognize outstanding alumni for their support and dedication for the chapter, keep alumni directories/databases current, and issue at least four newsletters annually, which consist of ½ Alumni News and ½ Chapter News. He shall maintain a working relationship with the university’s alumni office, and set written, attainable goals for the chapter’s alumni relations program and track how they are met.
- Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Vice President of Finance/Treasurer to serve as presiding officer in the absence of the president. He shall have the power to approve/disprove all purchases for the chapter and employ all help needed with the exception of the employment of a cook, and to render a financial report at the call of the President. It shall be the duty of the Vice President of Finance/Treasurer to receive and holds all funds of the chapter and to disburse the same. He shall render orally to the chapter and to the faculty Advisory Committee a summary report of his collections, disbursements, accounts receivable, and bills payable at meetings. He shall furnish similar information to the President at any other time, upon request. The Treasurer shall also annually create a sound operating budget, a system for collecting delinquent accounts and shall work with the Association and House Manager to make sure Housing Contracts are signed by every member.
- Section 6. It shall be the duty of the Vice President of Administration to keep record of all proceedings of the chapter and executive meetings and will give minutes to Chapter President for weekly record filing. He shall attend to all correspondence of the chapter and keep a record of all correspondence. He shall maintain the good-standing of the chapter with the University and FarmHouse Headquarters. He shall cooperate with the association secretary in all matters of mutual concern to the Chapter, Association and International Fraternity.
- Section 7. It shall be the duty of the House Manager to be in charge of all work sessions, to conduct inspection of all assigned work duties at least once per week at an announced time, and levy fines for negligence of work duties. He should also conduct a walk through safety self-inspection with an advisor monthly.
- Section 8. Director of Risk Management shall educate the chapter and new members about FarmHouse's risk management policies and the dangers posed by alcohol & substance abuse. Promote the rules and policies contained in the FarmHouse Alcohol & Drug Policy and FIPG Risk Management Policy to ALL members and guests.
- Section 9. The Director of Scholarship shall oversee the intellectual growth of the members by establishing a Scholarship Program. Help any member or prospective

member having difficulty with his studies. Assist them in seeking the counsel of a faculty or university advisor. Ensure the Chapter has a physical environment conducive to study. Plan events that honor academic success and faculty members.

- Section 10. President, Risk Manager, and House Manager must live in chapter house during their entire office term to maintain an elevated level of chapter management and communication unless office cannot be filled.

Article IX. Executive Committee and Auditing Committee

- Section 1. The President, Vice President of Recruitment, Vice President of New Member Education, Director of Alumni Relations, Vice President of Finance/Treasurer, Vice President of Administration, Director of Risk Management, Director of Scholarship and House Manager shall constitute the Executive Committee of the chapter.
- 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 times 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 2/3 vote of the Active membership.
- Section 3. The Executive Committee shall meet prior to each regular chapter meeting to discuss the agenda for the upcoming meeting.
- Section 4. An Internal Auditing Committee shall be comprised of the outgoing chapter treasurer, incoming chapter treasurer, association treasurer, chapter president, a chapter advisor and a local alumnus. This committee shall meet shortly after new officer elections in late fall. The alumni volunteers shall audit and review the books and make suggestions to improve the bookkeeping and financial management. The committee should meet at least once per semester.

Article X. Faculty Advisory Committee

- Section 1. Each Chapter shall select from the Alumni, Associate, or Honorary membership of FarmHouse Fraternity at least three (3) members, of which at least two (2) shall be faculty members, who shall constitute the Advisory Committee, and whose advice may be sought by the Chapter, Association, and International Executive Board on all matters pertaining to the welfare of the Chapter. In case three Alumni, Association or Honorary members should not be available, the Chapter may choose others subject to approval by the International Board.

Article XI. Initiation

- Section 1. The formal initiation of candidates for membership shall be as prescribed in the Pearls Ritual of the International FarmHouse Fraternity.
- Section 2. The Builder of Men Weekend shall conform to the Fraternity Executive Association's Statement of Position on Hazing and Pre-Initiation Activities. Any offenders of this position statement shall be disciplined. The Chapter shall inform the Faculty Advisory Committee of its entire Builders of Men weekend program.

Article XII. Chapter Meeting

- Section 1. Meeting should be held regularly each week throughout the school year.
- Section 2. The proceedings at the meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, except where it may be a variance with the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization.

Article XIII. 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.
- Section 3. The official jewelry shall consist of a membership badge as described in the ritual, a pledge pin, coat-of-arms, and recognition button. The New Member pin shall be a small green shield with the letters FH inscribed upon it. The recognition button shall be a miniature gold FH lapel button. The star and crescent lapel button procured prior to January 1, 1949, shall continue to be the official recognition badge of the fraternity.

Article XIV. Fees and Dues

- Section 1. Each candidate for active and Associate membership shall, before he is initiated pay to the International Executive Director by way of the Chapter Treasurer an international initiation fee by the delegates at the Biennial Conclave as his international initiation fee, and in addition shall pay to the Tennessee Chapter a Chapter initiation fee, which shall be determined by the chapter.
- Section 2. Each active member or new member shall at the beginning of each semester pay to the International Executive Director through the Tennessee treasurer, membership dues as established by the delegates at the Biennial Conclave, and in addition shall pay to the Chapter such dues and assessments as shall be levied by the action of the Chapter.

Article XV. Amendments

- Section 1. Revision and amendments to this constitution shall be proposed one week before ratification. A 2/3 vote of all active members and a unanimous vote of the

Faculty Advisory Committee is required, provided the revision does not conflict with the By-Laws of the International Fraternity.

Revised: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, by Jackson Reid, VP of Administration

Approved: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 by the Chapter.