

PREAMBLE TO THE ICC STANDING RULES

ICC VISION - Adopted August 18, 2002

We, the member-owners of the Inter-Cooperative Council, envision an affordable living community in which equal, and educated members work together to further the cooperative movement.

ICC MISSION - Adopted August 4, 2002

We, the member-owners of the ICC, provide a home for students that equally embodies quality living, community and social equality, all within the cooperative movement. We continuously strive to maintain and improve our organization and our houses through shared work. We are committed to furthering our education by building life skills, a strong community, and personal relationships. We create and maintain a safe and affordable environment where our members feel comfortable and at home.

ICC COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

The ICC, as a student housing cooperative organization, abides by the following principles of cooperation modeled after those established by the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers:

1. **Open Membership** Membership in a co-op shall be voluntary and non-discriminatory. All who can use its services and agree to share in the responsibilities required to run the co-op shall be eligible to join, regardless of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or political beliefs.
2. **Democratic Participation** Each member has exactly one vote regardless of the amount of his/her investment; all members together control the organization.
3. **Neutrality.** Cooperatives remain neutral in questions of partisanship and religion.
4. **Limited Interest on Invested Capital.** Share capital invested by members shall receive a strictly limited rate of interest.
5. **Distribution of Economic Result.** The year-end savings of member co-ops may be distributed as a patronage refund to the members.
6. **Education.** Cooperatives shall constantly educate their members, employees, and the public in the principles and practices of cooperation, both economic and democratic.
7. **Mutual Cooperation.** All cooperative organizations shall actively cooperate on practical matters with other cooperatives at local, national, and international levels, to further serve their members and their communities.
8. **Continuous Expansion.** Our cooperatives shall support the continuous expansion of the ICC and the cooperative movement, in order to best serve the community.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE (ICA) CO-OP PRINCIPLES

The ICC also operates according to this set of cooperative principles, which are used by co-ops around the world:

1. **Voluntary and Open Membership** — Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
2. **Democratic Member Control** — Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.
3. **Members' Economic Participation** — Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.
4. **Autonomy and Independence** — Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.
5. **Education, Training, and Information** — Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives** — Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.
7. **Concern for Community** — While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

ICC PURPOSES

From the Articles of Incorporation: The purpose or purposes of this corporation are as follows:

1. **To promote the social and general welfare of the community to all University students**, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin and thus influence the community to eliminate prejudice and discrimination in housing.

2. **To initiate, coordinate, direct and otherwise participate in educational efforts and programs** for the education of its members and others in the philosophy, principles and practices of all cooperatives.
3. **To advance the cause of education** by providing inexpensive board and lodging for University students with limited resources, so that those who might not otherwise be able to continue at the University because of economic need, may enjoy the fruits and the benefits of higher education.
4. **To relieve the government of the State of Michigan from the burden of building and operating state owned dormitories** by creating housing facilities for students at low cost on a cooperative basis; and to continually expand and extend those facilities in the community interest.
5. **To promote the social and general welfare of he community and to advance the cause of education** by granting scholarships and low-cost or interest-free loans to university students with limited resources, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

ICC STATEMENT OF BELIEFS AND VALUES

Adopted February, 2003

1. EQUALITY

All people have equal worth.

Open membership and non-discrimination are strongly held values in the ICC, and both are based on the assumption that all people are created equal. This tenet is central to all co-ops and is the basis for democracy.

2. MEMBER CONTROL

Control of resources in order to meet needs is a right.

Co-ops give control to members who use their services, rather than to investors who want to make money. By being co-op members, we actualize our belief that people have the right to have control over resources based on need, not profit.

3. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

There is value in individual contribution.

As individuals, we have both the right and the responsibility to contribute to the best of our ability. The ICC believes that anyone is capable of sound decisions and actions, given access to resources and information, and the power to utilize them. Without the effort of individuals, there can be no group effort.

4. SUSTAINABILITY

Wise use of resources is intrinsic to our mission.

By reusing, recycling, and reducing resources, ICC actualizes our belief that all of the world's people have the right to enough to meet their basic needs. We pledge to continuously look for ways to care for the earth.

5. COOPERATION

Individuals working together are more effective than those working alone.

Respect for individuals, while working together for mutual gain and support, makes cooperatives examples of the highest human values in action.

6. COOPERATION

Working together allows us to improve our members' lives in many ways.

We are many co-ops in one, providing food, computers, laundry, newspapers, gardens, entertainment, training in business operations and management, etc. We look to continuously improve our members' quality of life.

7. SELF-RELIANCE

The ICC is its own most reliable resource.

The ICC attempts to be a self-reliant organization, and to enable its members to be self-reliant individuals. Whenever possible, we use our own resources to solve problems before we look for outside help.

8. DIVERSITY

Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

Since its beginnings, ICC has actively created a community of people from all places, backgrounds, beliefs and lifestyles. We do not discriminate by race, gender, ability, sexual preference, nationality or any other category. We broaden our perspective and remove old prejudices by living together, and help change society by setting an example of respect and acceptance.

9. COMMUNITY

Community is the key to our success.

Community is a sense of belonging that connects all of us to one another. This idea is what drives us to improve our houses, and make them into homes. We try to spread this feeling to as many as we can. It influences our decisions on expansion, as well as on programs and services at both the house and organizational level.

10. PARTICIPATION

Community requires the participation of empowered members.

In the ICC, participation in work and the social life of the co-ops is as important to success as the payment of charges. Participation reinforces the sense of community that makes a co-op last, even as individual members come and go. But for a community to succeed, participation must lead to empowerment; members exercising control over decision-making and the actual operations of the co-op.

11. STEWARDSHIP

The co-op should benefit both current and future members.

Many members worked to build the ICC for us, and it is our job to be careful stewards so that the ICC will be here for many members to come. Because of this, we choose to buy houses rather than rent them, and to spend the money to keep them in good repair. We are grateful to our 20,000+ alums, and pledge to pass on an ICC that can serve 20,000+ more.