



History of the Interfraternity Institute

In 1970, Richard R. "Dick" Fletcher, Executive Secretary of Sigma Nu Fraternity, in his role as President of the College Fraternity Secretaries Association (predecessor name of the Fraternity Executives Association) discussed with then-Sigma Nu Fraternity Regent (national president) Herman B. Wells who was Indiana University Chancellor the need for greater communication, understanding and collaboration between fraternity deans and fraternity professionals. The idea was conceived of a "one-week academic workshop" for college student affairs personnel and inter/national fraternity staff personnel. Since more new deans seemed to have less fraternal and management experience, it was proposed to hold the workshop in a campus fraternal housing setting and to plan a curriculum that emphasized executive leadership development. After gaining support for the concept from the board of directors of the College Fraternity Secretaries Association, Mr. Fletcher asked Chancellor Wells to host the first program at Indiana University. Chancellor Wells in turn asked Dr. Robert Shaffer, Indiana University Dean of Students and a member of Sigma Chi, to serve as Dean of the Institute and members of his staff, Dr. Thomas Schreck, a member of Phi Sigma Kappa and Dr. Herbert Smith, a member of Delta Upsilon, to design and manage the program. Thus was born the first Interfraternity Institute (IFI), which took place in June 1970 with 37 students and 12 faculty members.

Since that time, the Fraternity Executives Association, in partnership with the Indiana University department of student affairs, has conducted the Interfraternity Institute annually through 2013, each summer, on the campus of Indiana University. Over the course of 42 Institutes, more than 2,000 college student affairs personnel and inter/national fraternity staff personnel, and their related institutions, have benefited from the Institute's unique program which is focused on topics of fraternal concern and collaboration between Greek organizations and host institutions.

For 2015, the Fraternity Executives Association and the University of Illinois have partnered to develop the Infraternity Institute. The 2015 Interfraternity Institute will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana at a local hotel.