



# **Black Students' Union**

## **ARTICLE I - ESTABLISHMENT**

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish the Black Students' Union (BSU) of the University of Rochester and enact this constitution for its governance. Failure to follow this constitution could result in penalties or revocation of Students' Association recognition of this organization.

## **ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT**

Black Students' Union was founded to promote social, cultural, and historic awareness of the varying Black experiences, and to foster student growth and development through diversity, academics, and community services and outreach. Black Students' Union provides a forum for the expression of the views and interests of Black students at the University by providing an opportunity for students of all races to celebrate black culture, lifestyle, and history.

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION ONE - MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Eligibility – All Students' Association (SA) members shall be eligible for membership. An SA Member is a University of Rochester undergraduate of the College who has paid their SA activities fee. All members and associate members shall be listed on the organization's Campus Community Connection site. Membership is automatically renewed yearly unless the member graduates, requests to cancel their membership, or fails to meet membership requirements.
- B. Definition of active member – All the eligible persons may attain membership by attending 40% of general meetings and 50% of our annual events. General meetings include the general meetings of all committees. When you are a member, membership status is maintained throughout student matriculation.
- C. Definition of associate member – All University of Rochester faculty, staff, graduate students and Eastman students shall be eligible for associate membership but not eligible to hold an officer position. Graduate students, faculty, and staff are not eligible to compete nor travel as part of a college student organization.

## **ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS AND VOTING**

### **SECTION ONE - QUORUM**

- A. A meeting shall be valid if a quorum is present. Quorum is defined as ½ of the active membership plus one officer.

**SECTION TWO - VOTING**

- A. Voting on any issue shall be official only if the meeting is valid.
- B. All members shall have equal voting power.
- C. Procedure – All decisions shall be arrived at by simple majority using a hand vote unless otherwise specified by the presiding officer. The President shall only vote to break a tie.

**ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

**SECTION ONE - OFFICER POSITIONS**

- A. President – must have held an executive board position previously to qualify. (unless no one else is qualified).
- B. Vice President
- C. Business Manager
- D. Secretary
- E. Educational and Political Chair
- F. Social and Cultural Co-Chairs
- G. Community Outreach Chair
- H. Publicity Chair
- I. Freshmen Representatives
- J. Affiliate Organization Representative(s)
- K. No Disclaimers Chair

**SECTION TWO - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- A. All officers shall be members of the Students' Association.
- B. All officers shall promote active recruitment of new members.
- C. All officers shall enforce this constitution.
- D. All officers shall be responsible for knowing the sections of the Students' Association constitution and bylaws that apply to this organization.
- E. The President shall preside over the meetings and shall maintain organization within the club, communicate with other officers and delegate duties to maintain a functioning club that fulfills the purposes set forth above.
  - a. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Black Students' Union, and thus, is the official spokesperson for the organization.
  - b. The President shall oversee the welfare of all offices within the executive board, and shall be the liaison to all conjoining organizations.
  - c. The President shall have the power to formulate committees and to appoint subsequent committee chairpersons.
  - d. The President shall make appointments to fill vacancies pending Executive Board approval.
  - e. The President is responsible for creating the agendas for all general and Executive Board meetings.

- F. The Senior Advisor shall be the chief advisor of the Black Students' Union and shall advise through the permission of the President.
  - a. The Senior Advisor shall be responsible for having a complete knowledge of the constitution, including the responsibilities of every Executive Board member, and should be able to enforce it.
  - b. The Senior Advisor shall take a neutral position through decisions made by voting within the Executive Board.
  - c. The Senior Advisor will have had to be on the Executive Board of the Black Students' Union for two years – or - on the Executive Board of the Black Students' Union for one year and on the Executive Board of a committee for one year.
  - d. The Senior Advisor shall be voted on by two-thirds of the Executive Board.
- G. The Business Manager shall be responsible for maintaining all finances and keep detailed records of all transactions.
  - a. The Business Manager shall maintain accurate up-to-date records of all financial transactions incurred by the organization. The Business Manager shall be responsible for all funds, both assets and liabilities, affecting the financial status of this organization.
  - b. The Business Manager and the President shall be responsible for the annual budget, including allocating funds for the conjoining organizations.
  - c. The Business Manager shall preserve all records for future reference.
- H. The Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining a current copy of this constitution open to inspection by all members of this organization, Senators, and all members of the Students' Association.
  - a. The Vice President shall assume Presidential responsibilities in the absence of the President.
  - b. The Vice President shall be Chief of Staff, responsible for all chairpersons, and for the initiation and coordination of all committee activities.
  - c. The Vice President shall oversee the voting process in all general and executive meetings.
  - d. If necessary, the Vice President shall formulate and oversee a judicial review committee, responsible for upholding and maintaining the BSU Constitution.
- I. The Secretary shall also take roll call at all meetings, tally votes, keep an accurate list of organization members and take and maintain meeting minutes.
  - a. The Secretary shall be responsible for the organization of the BSU office.
  - b. The Secretary shall be responsible for the upkeep of accurate attendance records and membership directories upon request for inspection
  - c. The Secretary shall be responsible for the preservation and organization of all historical records, programs, and additional documents.

- J. Educational and Political Chair shall be responsible for the initiation and coordination of programs and activities of interest to or of need by Black students including, but not limited to, areas of educational and/or political origin.
  - a. Educational and Political programs shall include speakers, conferences, movies, symposiums, lectures, and cultural events concentrating on the recognition of Black art, history, and celebrations, all of which is pertinent to Black Awareness.
  - b. The Chairperson shall be responsible for the initiation of and communication to the educational and political committee members.
  - c. The Educational and Political committee shall meet at least once a month or more, as necessary. The frequency of the meetings shall be determined by the committee Chairperson.
- K. Social and Cultural Co-Chairpersons shall be responsible for the initiation and coordination of cultural programs and social activities of interest to the Black Students' Union membership.
  - a. Social programs may include, but will be limited to, outings, game nights, parties and other events that provide for social interactions amongst Black Students' Union members.
  - b. The Social and Cultural Chairpersons are responsible for the planning of Kwanzaa and Black History Month.
  - c. The Social and Cultural Chairpersons shall be responsible for the initiation of and communication to the social and cultural committee members.
  - d. The Social and Cultural committee shall meet at least once a month or more depending on the nature of the event(s).
- L. Community Outreach Chair shall be responsible for community relations and for the initiation and coordination of all community service projects.
  - a. The Community Outreach Chairperson is responsible for providing at least two communities service events monthly.
  - b. The Community Outreach Chairperson shall be responsible for the initiation of and communication to the community outreach committee members.
  - c. The community outreach committee shall meet at least once a month or more, as necessary. The committee Chairperson shall determine the frequency of the meetings
- M. Publicity Chair shall be responsible for publicity of all Black Students' Union events (meetings, events, etc.) set forth by the executive board.
  - a. Publicity shall include fliers, posters, handouts, emails, or any means of publicizing the intentions of the executive board to its intended audience.
  - b. The Publicity Chairperson shall be responsible for the initiation of and communication to the publicity committee members.

- c. The Publicity Committee shall meet at least once a month, as necessary.  
The committee Chairperson shall determine the frequency of the meetings.
- N. The Freshman Representatives shall consist of two (2) elected persons from the freshmen class, serving during their freshmen academic year.
  - a. The Freshmen Representatives responsibilities shall include developing at least one program and/or activity each semester, relaying information from the executive board, and being a spokesperson for their class.
- O. Affiliate Organization Representative(s) shall have one (1) member represent the organization in executive board meetings
  - a. Representatives will be responsible for keeping the executive board informed of all proceedings within the organization and will contribute actively towards the mission of the Black Students' Union

### **SECTION THREE - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

- A. Nomination and Election Procedure – Any member of the Black Students' Union may nominate his or herself or another person for office, provided that person is in compliance with the qualifications outlined by Article V. Nominations are open to all *active members* of the Black Students' Union, all members have equal voting power, and the president shall only vote to break a tie. Elections will be decided by a poll on the organization's CCC page, unless otherwise specified by the presiding officer.
- B. Term of Office – All newly elected officers shall serve a term of one full year, effective immediately following a shadowing period. The shadowing period begins from the day of election until the end of the existing academic year.
- C. Timing of Elections – All office positions shall open ten (10) days prior to the election date, which is the last scheduled general meeting of March of each academic year and shall close at midnight the day before. No further nominations shall be accepted unless the candidate position is vacant.

### **SECTION FOUR - VACANCIES, RESIGNATIONS, AND REMOVALS**

- A. At the first valid meeting following a vacancy of an office, the position is to be filled by the same manner described in *Article V, Section Three*.
- B. A vote of no confidence is a vote to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the entire active membership to pass. Any member of the organization may call for a vote of no confidence.
- C. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, they must be notified one week in advance.
- D. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

## **ARTICLE VI - RESOURCES**

### **SECTION ONE - RESOURCES**

- A. The Black Students' Union (BSU) of the University of Rochester will abide by their Resource Agreement.

**ARTICLE VII - HAZING POLICY**

Hazing, defined as the harassment of one individual by another individual or organization, is not permitted by the Black Students' Union (BSU). Behavior prohibited under this rule includes actions threatening substantial risk of physical or mental injury; actions exposing the individual to distressing, repulsive, or alarming situations or sensations; forced consumption of alcohol or drugs; actions in the form of social pressure which might cause harm to an individual.

**ARTICLE VIII - NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Black Students' Union abides by the nondiscrimination policy of the University.

**Daisha M. Danson**

Signature of Confirmation

Daisha Danson

**President, Black Students' Union**



Signature of Approval

Eden-Lyn Thomas

**Chair, Student Organization Administration & Review Committee**

**01/18/2021**

Date

*01/24/2021*

Date