

Black Student Alliance

Constitution

2011-2012

Iowa State University

PREAMBLE

The Black Student Alliance of Iowa State University was founded as the Black Student Organization (BSO) by eighty-six Black students in April of 1968. In May of that same year, the BSO filed grievances against the University concerning race relations and other issues related to the successful graduation of students of African descent on this campus. With that began a powerful organization committed towards attaining the full rights and privileges for students of African descent and their allies.

The Black Student Alliance of Iowa State University has been established to serve as a voice for the issues and concerns of students of African descent through educational, political, community service and social programs; to promote cooperation and understanding within the Black community, to encourage a sense of unity among the various organizations important to that community, and to fight racism, sexism, classism and heterosexism.

The Black Student Alliance emphasizes positive relationships and harmonious exchanges within the Black student, faculty and staff community. To serve those ends, the Black Student Alliance establishes this Constitution.

ARTICLE I: AFFILIATIONS

The Black Student Alliance shall comply with all Iowa State University policies and procedures, including but not limited to, those policies set in forth in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, the Student Organization Handbook, as well as local, state, and federal laws.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section A.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: Black Student Alliance does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran.

Section B.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP: All students of Iowa State University who are of African Decent and those who are their allies are members of the Black Student Alliance, herein referred to as BSA.

All students, except first year students, that meet the academic requirement of a 2.0 GPA or higher are eligible for membership.

- a. Any student that does not have an establish GPA at Iowa State University are said to be first year students.
- b. First year students are eligible to be a member without meeting the academic requirement of a 2.0 GPA or higher.
- c. Once first year students complete their first academic semester at Iowa State University, they must fulfill the academic requirement of a 2.0 GPA or higher to be eligible for membership.

ARTICLE III: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section A.

The Legislative authority of BSA shall be vested in the Assembly.

The Assembly shall consist of all members, the Executive Board, and the President as a non-voting member (except during elections).

The Legislative authority of BSA shall be vested in the General Assembly.

Section B.

The General Assembly shall carry out the all Legislative powers of BSA herein granted shall be vested in:

1. Enact laws, through voting, as authorized by this Constitution, or as necessary and proper to carry out the Constitutional purposes of BSA
2. Recommend resolutions on subjects that affect or are of concern to BSA.
3. Elect, by secret ballot, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Big 12 Delegates.
4. Amend the constitution and bylaws.
5. Shall vote on resolutions proposed by the President.
6. The General Assembly requires a simple majority vote on all General Assembly business (unless otherwise stated in the Constitution or Bylaws).
7. The General Assembly is required to pay dues of \$5.00 per academic year to be an active member of BSA.

- a. A member will have until October 31st to pay regular membership fees. The membership fee will be increased to \$10.00 at the end of the fall semester.
8. Only active members have voting eligibility in General Assembly voting, Electoral voting, receive party reductions from BSA, and the right to attend the Big XII Conference.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section A.

There shall be an executive cabinet of the Black Student Alliance which shall consist of the:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Head Big 12 Delegate
6. Big 12 Delegates (4)
7. Director of Publications
8. BCC Representative
9. NPHC Liaison
10. Director of Programs
11. Director of University Relations

Section B.

The elected officers shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Big 12 Delegates.

Section C.

The elected officers shall be elected by a majority of the general assembly.

Section D.

1. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve for one year.
2. The Big 12 Delegates shall serve for two years.
3. Appointed officers shall serve from the time of appointment by the President until the next elections.

Section E.

Any member of the general assembly is eligible for an office who:

- A. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) as stated below and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office. For undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, the minimum GPA is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration.
- B. Are enrolled and in good standing with the University with at least half time (six or more) credit hours.
- C. Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (A) and (B).
- D. Has been an active member of Black Student Alliance during the past administration by attending at least 50% of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Assembly.

Section F.

- 1. The President, along with the Executive Board, shall assume responsibility for interviewing and recommending for appointment such personnel as is necessary to effectively and efficiently conduct the affairs of any agency, council, committee, commission, task force, and/or group for which he/she is responsible.
- 2. The President, with the recommendation of the Executive Board, shall assume the sole power of appointing such persons and will announce all appointments at a meeting of the Assembly.
- 3. The President shall assume the sole power of removing appointees.

Section G.

- 1. In the event that the President should resign, be removed, or otherwise be unable to carry out and fulfill the powers and responsibilities of the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the title, the powers, and the responsibilities of the office of the President of BSA.
- 2. In the event that the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and/or the Big 12 Delegates should resign, be removed, or otherwise be unable to carry out and fulfill the responsibilities of the office of the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and/or the Big 12 Delegates, the President shall elect, by a majority of those present, an officer(s) to assume the powers, responsibilities and title of the respective office(s).

Until such time as a candidate for Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and/or Big 12 Delegates has been elected by the Assembly, the President has the sole power to delegate the responsibilities and duties of the vacant offices to members of the Executive Board.

3. In the event both of the offices of the President and the Vice President should become simultaneously vacated due to resignation or removal, or should both the President and Vice President for any reason be otherwise simultaneously unable to carry out their respective powers and responsibilities as Executives of BSA, the remainder of the Executive Board along with the General Assembly shall hold a special election at the next Assembly Meeting.

- A. Until such time as a President is elected, the Secretary shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the Office of the President of BSA, assuming the title of Acting President.
- B. Until such time as a Vice President is elected, the Treasurer shall assume the responsibilities of the Office of the Vice President of BSA; said elected official shall assume the title of Acting Vice President.

Section H.

All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Campus Organizations Accounting Office and/or approved institution/office (must receive authorization via Campus Organizations Accounting Office). All funds must be deposited within 48 hours after collection. The Adviser to this organization must approve and sign expenditures before payment.

In the event that membership dues are assessed, dues shall not exceed \$10.00 per member.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The duties of the Executive Board are:

Section A.

President:

1. Shall be the Chief Administrator of BSA.
2. Shall have sole power and complete responsibility for the effective and efficient administration of the affairs of BSA and the leadership of the Black community.
3. Shall from time to time choose by Executive Order to establish administrative procedures, job descriptions, and/or councils, commissions, and efficient administration of BSA.
4. Shall have sole power and responsibility over those offices, agencies, council, committees, commissions, task forces, and groups which comprise the Executive Cabinet of BSA.

- a. Vacancy: In the event there is a vacancy on the BSA Executive Board, the President has the authority to make the necessary appointments. All appointments are subject to approval by a simple majority of the General Assembly. The President cannot leave any officer positions of the Executive Board vacant.
 - b. Removal of Appointees: the President shall have sole power over removal of such personnel when and if he/she deems it necessary and proper without recourse from the General Assembly. Upon removal from office, the removed member may remain as a General Assembly member, but may not hold any office for the duration of that term of office.
5. Shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Assembly.
 6. Shall have the power to summon the Assembly into special session(s).
 7. Shall propose legislation, resolutions, fund-raising projects, and organizational activities for consideration by the General Assembly.
 8. Shall prepare an agenda for each meeting of the Executive Board.
 9. Shall assume the responsibility of addressing the General Assembly and/or any of its agencies, councils, committees, commissions, task forces and/or groups either in person, or by correspondence, or through such other representatives of the President as she/he may desire to dispatch.
 10. Shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Board.
 11. Shall choose from time to time to enact Legislation to serve as official notice to the University, and/or the City of Ames, and/or the State of Iowa, and or the United States, and/or any segment of the general public as to the collective sentiment of BSA regarding any issue of concern to the Black community at Iowa State University, or any portion thereof, such Legislation taking the form of an General Assembly Resolution. The General Assembly shall have the authority to vote on the resolution.
 12. Shall serve as the official representative of the Black student community and BSA in all ways deemed appropriate.
 13. Shall act as the voting representative of BSA to the Big 12 Council on Black Student Government.

Section B.

Vice President:

1. Shall serve as the Chair of the General Assembly.
2. Shall prepare an agenda for each meeting of the General Assembly.
3. Shall designate the times and places of meetings of the General Assembly Assembly.

4. Shall call the General Assembly into special session at the request of the President, or at the written request of at least 20 members of the Assembly.
5. Shall be responsible for the collection and codification of all Constitutional Amendments, Laws, and Executive Orders of BSA.
6. Shall act as the voting representative of BSA to the Big 12 Council on Black Student Government.
7. Shall perform any further duties designated by the President.

Section C.

Secretary:

1. Shall record the official minutes of the General Assembly and the Executive Cabinet, maintaining those minutes in a clear and orderly fashion and available upon request for the examination by any member of BSA.
2. Shall be responsible for registering BSA with the Student Organizations and Activities Center at the beginning of the fall semester and filing for office space with the Student Union Board in the spring semester.
3. Shall be responsible for checking the mailbox and disseminate any information sent to the organization.
4. Shall be responsible for obtaining meeting places for the meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Board.

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5. Shall be responsible for maintaining accurate membership, phone and e-mail lists of members of BSA.
6. Shall perform any further duties designated by the President.

Section D.

Treasurer:

1. Shall be responsible for the fiscal management and accountability of BSA.
2. Shall coordinate and attend the spring and fall allocation meetings of the GSB Finance Committee.
3. Shall serve on all committees that deal with fundraising activities for the organization.
4. Shall set up and maintain all billing accounts of BSA with the university and other businesses.
5. Shall complete all training as deemed by Iowa State University.
6. Shall be in communication with Iowa State Foundation.
7. Shall perform any further duties designated by the President.

Section E.

Big 12 Delegates:

1. Shall serve, along with the President and Vice President, as the official delegates to the Big 12 Council on Black Student Government, herein referred to as Big 12 Council.
2. Shall attend Big 12 Council Fall Transitional, Fall Planning, Conference, and Spring Transitional meetings.
3. Shall be responsible, along with the President and other cabinet officials for preparing the Big 12 Book.
4. Shall be responsible for introducing legislation to the Big 12 Council on behalf of BSA and the enactment of Big 12 council legislation within BSA.
5. Shall perform any further duties designated by the President and Head Big 12 Delegate.

Section F.

Head Big 12 Delegate:

1. Shall use their previous experience as a Big 12 Delegate to aid them in helping with the transition of new Big 12 Delegates.
2. Shall serve, along with the President, Vice President, and other Big 12 Delegates, as the official delegates to the Big 12 Council.
3. Shall be responsible for planning activities related to the Big 12 Conference.
4. Shall attend Big 12 Council Fall Transitional, Fall Planning, Conference, and Spring Transitional meetings.
5. Shall be responsible for coordinating the preparation of the Big 12 Book.
6. Shall be the main contact for the communication with the Big 12 Council.
7. Shall be responsible for introducing legislation to the Big 12 Council on behalf of BSA and the enactment of Big 12 council legislation within BSA.
8. Shall serve on the PR/Publications Committee of the Big 12 Council.
9. Shall perform any further duties designated by the President.

Section G.

NPHC Liaison:

1. Shall serve as the official NPHC representative on BSA Executive Cabinet meetings.
2. Shall attend BSA and NPHC cabinet meetings as well as BSA general assembly meetings.

3. Shall promote and work towards unifying BSA and NPHC as organizations as well as individuals within those organizations.
4. Shall perform any further duties designated by the President & Vice President.

Section H.

Director of Programs:

1. Shall be responsible for the planning and implementation of BSA events and programs, as directed by the Vice President.
2. Shall perform any further duties designated by the President & Vice President.

Section I.

Director of Publications:

1. Shall be responsible for the dissemination of information for BSA to the Black community and the general public.
2. Shall perform any further duties designated by the President & Secretary.

Section J.

Director of University Relations:

1. Shall assist the President in the effective and efficient administration of BSA.
2. Shall serve, along with the President, as a representative of BSA on various university committees.
3. Shall perform any further duties designated by the President.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS AND INAUGURATION

1. Rules and Procedures Governing Election: the General Assembly of BSA shall establish by law the rules and procedures governing the election of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Big 12 Delegates, and the election of such candidates to other offices as the Assembly may require. The rules and procedures governing elections shall in all ways be in accordance with the provisions as set forth in the Constitution.
2. Election Day: the Executive Board and the General Assembly of BSA shall establish a day of general BSA election in the spring and shall herein be referred to as BSA Election Day at Iowa State University.

ARTICLE VII: IMPEACHMENT

1. Object of Impeachment: impeachment proceedings may be brought against elected officials of BSA by all active members of the General Assembly.
2. Grounds for Impeachment: the grounds for impeachment and removal from the office shall be malfeasance of duties and responsibilities related to the office held, or failure of an elected official(s) to remain a student during the term of office (automatic).

3. Institution of Proceedings: impeachment proceedings may be instituted against any elected official(s) by filing a signed request for impeachment with the Advisor to BSA and introducing legislation, with ten signatures of BSA General Assembly members, listing the individual charges against the member of the Executive Board to be impeached and a request for an impeachment hearing. A majority vote of the Assembly shall be sufficient to call the General Assembly into Special session to try to impeachment.
4. Chair of Impeachment Proceedings: the Vice President shall serve as Chair of Impeachment Proceedings. In the case of the Vice President being brought up for impeachment, the Secretary shall serve as the Chair.
5. Conviction and Punishment: no elected official shall be convicted without the concurring vote of (two-thirds) of all members voting. Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification from holding any further Office in BSA.
6. Recall: any elected official of BSA may be recalled from Office by a petition filed with the Advisor of BSA and signed by (two-thirds) of the members of BSA.

ARTICLE VIII - THE REMOVAL PROCESS

Section A.

Removal from the Executive Board: All BSA Executive Board members are subject to removal from office for failure to uphold the BSA Constitution. Upon removal from office, the removed member may remain as a General Assembly member, but may not hold any office for the duration of that term of office.

Section B.

In order to remove a BSA Executive Board member, a proposal must be submitted in writing for consideration to the Executive Board. Upon two-thirds vote by the Executive Board, the resolution for removal will be placed on the agenda for the next Executive Board meeting.

ARTICLE IX- ADVISOR

Section A.

The President shall have the power to select a faculty and/or staff member(s) as Advisor(s) to BSA within one month after election; the President can consult with the Executive Board on the choice of advisor, but she/he will have the sole power of the final choice.

Section B.

The advisor will serve as a mentor and guide to the President, the Executive Board, and the General Assembly in all matters relating to BSA.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Section A.

Proposed amendments must be submitted in written form to the Executive Board to be reviewed. The proposal must be clearly stated and justified. The proposed amendments will be submitted to each BSA member for ratification.

Section B.

Ratification of any amendments to this constitution shall be subject to a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members present at the General Assembly meeting. All ratified amendments will take affect immediately unless otherwise stated in the proposal. It is the responsibility of the Executive Board to record and enforce the ratified amendment.

ARTICLE XI: EFFECTIVE DATE

This constitution shall become basic law of BSA on September 22, 2011 if ratified by a majority of those students voting on said legislation. Upon such ratification, as of September 22, 2011, all previous BSA Constitutions shall be null and void.

ARTICLE XII: CONSTITUTIONALITY

If matters of the interpretation of this Constitution lead to serious disagreement in either the Executive Board or the General Assembly, any ten members of BSA may petition that the controversy be resolved by a tribunal consisting of the BSA President, the BSA Vice President, the BSA Advisor, and another member of the Iowa State faculty or staff.