

# *The Constitution of the African-American Society*

## **Article I. Statement of Purpose**

The African-American Society (AAS) is a social and cultural organization. Culturally, we exist to promote an awareness and acceptance of our unique heritage. Our social purpose is to offer activities that encourage cultural interaction and diversity. We eagerly cooperate with other cultural and social organizations on campus to promote cultural awareness and interactions, as well as foster a community of support and advancement.

## **Article II. Membership**

Section I. This organization is open to all interested students, faculty and staff currently affiliated with Dickinson College and the Dickinson Community.

Section II. Membership is open throughout the academic year with active recruitment delegated to the members and the acting cabinet.

Section III. No annual dues are required for membership because AAS acquires funds for its yearly programs from Student Senate funds. Members, however, will be divided into one of the following categories:

1. Active: Determined by attendance and participation in AAS meetings. Active membership entails attending at least 75% of the semester's AAS meetings- which is to be counted from one's first AAS meeting of the semester.
2. Inactive: Determined by non-compliance with the requirements stated under active membership.

## **Article III. Executive Board**

Section I: The Executive Board shall be the governing body of AAS.

Section II. The Executive Board shall be chaired by the present or acting President of the AAS, and includes the Treasurer, Events Coordinator, the Club Liaison, and an Administrative or Faculty Advisor to AAS.

Section III. The Executive Board positions are held for one year, from the second meeting in February to the first February meeting of the following year.

Section IV. The duties of the Executive Board include:

Part A: Overseeing and maintaining the fulfillment of the Constitution.

Part B: Coordination of and presiding over weekly meetings, to plan club activities which focus on and promote diversity and cultural awareness of African and African-American heritage on Dickinson's campus for the coming year and execute those programs planned for the present year.

Part C: Call meetings for the club.

Part D: Chronicling the gatherings and works performed by the African-American Society through pictures and other archival mediums.

Part E: Takes over the functions of any officer position in that person's absence or if that person is unable to continue in office, and becomes responsible for the distribution of that position's duties.

## **Article IV. Officers**

### **President**

1. Oversees the fulfillment and maintenance of all parts of the Constitution.
2. Acts as the general coordinator of all group activities and establisher of all general committees to meet the need of programming for that academic year.
3. Calls and presides over weekly meetings of the Society and the Executive Board.
4. Finalizes all votes and executive decisions by overseeing their enactment. The President may vote if, and only if, a stalemate occurs in a meeting over which the President presides.
5. Performs all other functions as defined by the Executive Board, and has the right to call any emergency meetings deemed necessary.

### **Treasurer**

1. Is responsible for keeping track of expenditures.
2. Is responsible for preparing and presenting the annual budget.
3. Is required to attend all pertinent student senate financial functions.
4. Performs all other functions as delegated by the President or Executive Board.

### **Events Coordinator**

1. Is responsible for organizing all cultural and social functions involving the African-American Society, including Black History Month and Kwanzaa.
2. Is responsible for establishing a committee of five members- if the elected deems a committee necessary, and five individuals can fulfill the committee positions (for continuation purposes it is suggested that this committee consist of three upperclassmen and two first-years).

## **Club Liaison**

1. Acts as the liaison between the AAS and the Dickinson College community, as well as affiliated organizations of other college campuses.
2. Is responsible for all publicity and decorations for AAS activities.
3. Has the primary responsibility of historian and the delegation of those duties.

## **Article V. Elections Procedures**

- A. Elections are to be supervised by the Faculty/ Administrative Advisor(s) to the AAS.
- B. Officers are elected for one term. A term shall consist of one school year from the second AAS meeting in February to the first meeting in February of the following year.
- C. An individual may serve only two consecutive terms in any one office.
- D. Offices require an individual who has at least one semester of active participation [as defined in Article II. Section III.]
- E. Elections are held on the second meeting of February, every year.
- F. Nominations are held. Persons not present at this meeting can be nominated, provided an acceptance note is presented to the general community. A list of those nominated is sent to all active members.
- G. One week later, elections are held and the votes are counted. Attendance for the nominated is mandatory at this meeting and only those active members present may vote.
- H. A majority vote for each office will determine the outcome of the elections. In the event of a tie, a second vote will be taken.

## **Article VI. Removals and Vacancy**

In order for an officer or committee member to keep his/her position, the officer or committee member must execute the duties the position entails and attend three-fourths of the meetings.

If an officer fails to follow his/her responsibilities the group has the power to remove him/her from office or committee by impeachment. This motion for impeachment is to be heard and brought to the attention of the Advisor, upon which time it will be heard by the executive board. One week following this motion both the accused officer and executive board will be given the opportunity to plea their cases and the entire membership of the AAS will have an opportunity to respond. Following these proceedings the entire **active** membership of AAS [as defined in Article II, Section III.] will vote, requiring only a quorum of 2/3 majority, by secret ballots and the decision is to be rendered and approved at that same meeting.

At any time, a new officer could be elected with quorum of 2/3 the active members required. Should an office be vacant, not due to impeachment, an election will be taken to fill that position, also with a quorum of 2/3 the active members required.

If a committee member fails to assume his/her responsibilities the same above process is required for his/her removal. The president of that committee has the power to appoint a new active AAS member to the committee.

**Article VII. Amendment Procedure**

Section I. The constitution will be reviewed annually to determine its validity. The approved constitution will be forwarded to the Student Senate.

Section II. Any member can present a written amendment to the constitution to the Executive Board.

Section III. Proposed amendments will be discussed at a general meeting. Based upon input from the general membership, the Executive Board shall be responsible for all revisions. Upon revisions, the amendment will then be brought to the general membership for a vote.

Section IV. A majority vote of two-thirds of the general membership is required to pass an amendment.

Section V. The authenticity of the Constitution is evident in the hand-written signatures of the acting Executive Board.

President \_\_\_\_\_ Events Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Club Liaison \_\_\_\_\_