

# CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN SOCIETY

## PREAMBLE

This Constitution, along with the Standards of Conduct and Bylaws, is the supreme law of the Afro-American Society, subject to the rules of Dartmouth College.

As members of the Afro-American Society, we realize the need to preserve, promote and uphold our vast African heritage. We pledge to work toward the attainment of the highest and fullest educational experiences for our fellow members and ourselves. We recognize the contributions of those who came before us and dedicate ourselves to continuing their work through means of academic, political cultural, and social expression. The Afro-American Society will strengthen, build and maintain coalitions with all organizations that support the needs of our vast community.

We, the members of the Afro-American Society, hereby dedicate ourselves to:

- 1) Maintain a political voice for communities of all those of the African Diaspora at Dartmouth College;
- 2) Promote cultural, educational, and public awareness;
- 3) Enhance and maintain the relationship and understandings among all students, faculty, staff, administration and Black Alumni of Dartmouth College;
- 4) To strive to unify the diverse experiences of the ever changing, ever expanding Dartmouth community.

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization will be known as the Afro-American Society at Dartmouth College; referred to and recognized in the Dartmouth community as the “Afro-American Society.”

## ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Section 2.01: The Afro-American Society offers membership to all undergraduate students and community members who are enrolled and/or are affiliated with Dartmouth College.
- 2) Section 2.02: The Executive Committee of the Afro-American Society will offer honorary membership to those who subscribe to the aims and goals of the Afro-American Society: faculty, administration, visiting professors, graduate students, guest speakers, members of the Black Caucus and all other persons deemed necessary. Honorary members will not have the power to vote during general Afro-American Society meetings and cannot hold office.
- 3) Section 2.03: Membership will be made void, if any member is found guilty of rape, sexual assault and/or any violent act of any kind. This includes exclusion from events created specifically for students of color and any affinity housing.

## ARTICLE III. ADMINISTRATION

### **Section I. ELECTED OFFICERS**

### Sub-Section I: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will consist of:

President or Co-President

- To become co-presidents, you must run and win under a joint platform

Vice-President

Financial Secretary

Communications Chairperson

Male and Female Freshman Representatives

Cultural Chairperson

Academic Chairperson

Librarian/Historian

Parliamentarian (appointed and non-voting)

Community Service Chairperson

Student Relations Chairperson

### Sub-Section II: Judiciary Committee

The Judiciary Committee exists as a separate entity from the Executive Committee. Its primary function is to uphold and enforce the guidelines detailed in the Constitution. Any changes in the letter of the Constitution by the Judiciary Committee must go before the Executive Committee and the General Afro-American Society body. The Judiciary Committee resolves questions on interpretations of this Constitution.

The Judiciary Committee will consist of 2 persons appointed by Parliamentarian.

Parliamentarian who will serve as a non-partisan chairperson of the committee, never voting unless a tie is present.

## **Section II: APPOINTED OFFICERS**

### Sub-Section I: Cultural Directorate

The Cultural Directorate groups are composed of people interested in the different groups associated with the Cultural Directorate. The leadership of each group is determined by an election among the said group. The Cultural Chairperson heads the Cultural Directorate. The Cultural Directorate consists of the leaders of the following cultural groups:

Black Underground Theater and Arts

Black Praxis

Dartmouth Alliance for Children of Color

UJIMA

### Sub-Section II: Primary and Secondary Advisors

The advisory committee will consist of members of the Black Caucus (the Black faculty, black staff, and allies to the black student community at large) at Dartmouth College. There will be constant communication between the President and Vice-President and the Black Caucus and it will be required of the President and Vice-President to meet at least once a term with members of the Black Caucus.

## ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

### **Section I: Duties of the Elected Officers**

#### **President will:**

- Serve as the official spokesperson of the Afro-American Society to the administration, faculty, staff, students and community members.
- Preside over and determine the agenda for the Executive Committee meetings.
- With the support of the majority of the Executive Committee, have the power to ask for the resignation of any officer.
- Have the power to appoint a member of the Afro-American Society after an officer has resigned or has been asked to resign with the consensus of the executive board members. In the interim, the responsibilities of this will be divided amongst the members of the Executive Committee.
- Serve as presiding officer at general meetings in the absence of the Vice President
- Keep attendance of executive members present at Executive meetings.
- Be in residence fall, winter and spring of the school year unless serving for summer term only.
- Determine the theme of the Afro-American Society during the tenure of the board with the consensus of the Afro-American Society executive board.
- Attend events sponsored by the Afro-American Society.
- Create a communication network between the AAm and the President of BADA.
- Communicate with the Alumni network to keep them abreast with AAm community (i.e. initiatives, programming, events)
- Work collaboratively with the Black Advisor
- Work collaboratively with presidents of other organizations that support students of color.
- Work collaboratively with Undergraduate Advisor (UGA) and Community Director of Shabazz Center for Intellectual Inquiry

#### **Vice President will:**

- Preside over and determine the agenda for the general body meetings of the Afro-American Society.
- Determine when the general body will meet and call emergency general body meetings.
- With the support of the Executive Committee, appoint a parliamentarian
- Serve as President when the President is absent
- Be the Executive Director of all Afro-American Society committees.
- Be in residence fall, winter and spring of the school year unless serving for summer term only.
- Attend events sponsored by the Afro-American Society.
- Will serve as the political voice of the Afro-American Society, which addresses issues of concern within the Dartmouth African Diaspora.
- Determine the issues of concern the committee will address each term.
- Keep the Dartmouth community informed on significant political issues and events, through forums, discussion and panels.
- Report the progress of goals and duties at the Executive Committee meetings.

- Maintain contact with the Black Student Unions at other Colleges and Universities.
- Establish a relationship with the Afro-American Society and faculty on campus
- Working jointly with the Black Caucus to integrate Black administrators into the Black student body
- Program for faculty/ administration appreciation.

**Financial Secretary will:**

- Advise the Executive and Afro-American Society body on expenditures.
- Keep an accurate account of the Afro-American Society's budget.
- Present the budget proposal of the new executive committee at the second general body meeting each term.
- Oversee, along with the Executive Committee, expenditures from the petty cash fund.
- Ultimately serve as an impartial link between the Executive Committee and general Afro-American Society members requesting funding. As such she/he will not vote on budgetary expenditures.
- Go through financial training before the first week of classes.

**Communications Chair will:**

- Keep an accurate recording of all Executive and general body meetings and make minutes available to the Afro-American Society general body.
- Keep recordings of all correspondence (i.e.) mailings and phone messages.
- Order all necessary supplies for the Afro-American Society office.
- Make sure general views and plans of the Afro-American Society are communicated to members by monthly calendar of Afro-American Society events.
- Be held responsible for disseminating all information to the body through Afro-American Society bulletins and mailings.

**Cultural Chairperson will:**

- Plan and execute events that support cultural and social expression (including parties, dinners, receptions, recitals, etc.).
- Collaborate with other organizations to put on events that support cultural and social expression
  - Organizations include but are not limited to Dartmouth African Student Association, Dartmouth Caribbean Connection, Native Americans at Dartmouth, La Alianza, etc.
- Organize and act as director of the cultural committee.

**Academic Chairperson will:**

- Plan and execute weekly study-hours.
- Organize and act as director of the Study-A-thon each term.
- Academic committee will provide at least two academic workshop(s) and special program(s) for the Afro-American Society per term excluding the Study-A-thon.
- Build and maintain working relationship with Academic Skills Center, Dean's Office, OPAL and Dick's House.
- Executive board members must submit their information regarding majors/ concentrations.

- Seek co-sponsorship with organizations.

**Freshmen Representatives will:**

- Present freshmen concerns to Executive Committee.
- Inform first-year students of Afro-American Society events.
- Organize and plan freshmen events to include parents weekend.
- A representative from each gender will be preferred to represent the gender diversity of the Freshman class, however, if a person of a certain gender cannot be found for whatever reason, both positions may be filled by the same gender.
- Seek co-sponsorship with organizations.

**Librarian/Historians will:**

- Must be executed by two persons
- Maintain an inventory of books in the Nels Armstrong library.
- Catalogued books throughout the term.
- Maintain relationship with Baker-Berry Library and African and African American Studies library
- Establish a circulation and cataloging system for books in the library.
- Be responsible for acquiring books for the library.
- Responsible for general upkeep and organizing of the library, which includes but not limited to
  - Maintaining the computer
  - Maintaining printer
  - Acquiring needed supplies for use by students
- Record the events and accomplishments of the Afro-American Society in a journal. This journal will contain minutes of all general body meetings, flyers for all events sponsored with accompanying synopses (including expenses), visual recordings and any other pertinent information for the end of Spring term.
- Formally instruct members on the Afro-American Society's history.
- Report on Afro-American Society events at general meetings.
- Construct and update written history of the Afro-American Society in Rauner
- Create and blitz termly newsletter before finals.

**Community Services Chairperson will:**

- Remain in constant contact with the Tucker Foundation's Community Service Coordinator
- Inform the community of general community service opportunities offered through the Tucker Foundations, including those that may be of particular interest for African American students
- Organize any community service requests from the greater Dartmouth Community deemed worthy of action.
- Seek co-sponsorship with organizations if deemed necessary

**The Parliamentarian will:**

- Enforce the Afro-American Society Constitution at both general and Executive meetings,

ensure that the By-laws are followed at all meetings, and maintain order at both general body and executive meetings.

- Serve as head of Judiciary Committee.
- Ensure that potential candidates are eligible to run for office as defined under the Bylaws, Section IV, sub-section I and any other specific requirements of the position.
- Seek co-sponsorship with organizations if deemed necessary.

## **Section II: Duties of Cultural Directorate**

### **Black Underground Theater and Arts Director will:**

- Organize and perform dramatic pieces throughout the year.
- Provide entertainment during special events of the year (i.e. Parents Weekend, Sophomore Parents Weekend, Perspectives weekend, Black History Month).

### **Black Praxis Editor(s)-In-Chief will:**

- Be responsible for the assembly and distribution of the termly Black Praxis
- Maintain website for Black Praxis online presence and subscription
- Be responsible for the training of the editorial staff in the production of the Black Praxis.

### **Dartmouth Alliance for Children of Color Chair(s) will:**

- Keep the general body informed of DACC events.
- Manage the budget of the DACC program.

### **Ujima Director will:**

- Make regular reports on the status of Ujima and the dates of performances.
- Manage the budget of Ujima Dance Troupe.
- Suggest successor(s) upon graduation.
- Follow the terms outlined in Appendix I of the Constitution of the Afro-American Society.

## **ARTICLE V: BYLAWS**

### ***Section I: Quorum***

- The Parliamentarian will define quorum at the beginning of the term.
- General Body Meetings – Quorum may be determined by two methods. It will be achieved when either 75% of the Executive Committee is present at the meeting at this point, all votes are considered legitimate Afro-American Society law.
- Executive Committee Meetings – Quorum will be achieved when 75% of the voting Executive Committee members are present. After this point, all votes are legitimate as a statement of the Executive Committee.

### ***Section II: Meetings***

- Executive – Executive Committee meetings will be held weekly and the date and time for these meetings will be set at the beginning of the term after a consensus is attained at the first meeting. All Officers and members of the Cultural Directorate are required to attend.
- General Body Meetings – General Body Meetings will be held every two weeks. The Vice President will set the date and time at the beginning of the term after a consensus is

attained at the first meeting.

### ***Section III: Voting Rights***

- Executive Meetings – All elected members will have votes except the Parliamentarian in all matters and the financial secretary in financial matters. In the event of a tie, the Parliamentarian is expected to break the tie. If a position has two chairs, that serves as one vote.
- To preserve the integrity of the vote, all elected members with an identifiable conflict of interest with an issue submitted for decision must abstain from voting.
- General Body Meetings – All members and associate members except the Parliamentarian and Vice-President will have voting rights. In the case of a tie, the Vice-President may vote and break the tie.

### **Section IV: Elections and Appointments**

#### ***Sub-Section I: Qualifications***

Any member of the Afro-American Society may be eligible for any office provided that he/she:

- Is not on College probation at the time of nomination
  - Runs for no more than one office per election
  - Upholds the standards enumerated in the Dartmouth Student Handbook (see chapter on Academic and Conduct regulations.)
  - Submit D-Plan with letter of intention.
    - Letter of intention must include example of an event that member would plan
      - Event can be a previous done event or a new event
- i. Any member is eligible to run for the office of President and Vice-President provided that he/she has actively participated in the governance of the Afro-American Society. He/she must have held a position on the executive board for one or more terms, or apprenticed the president or vice-president with a majority agreement from the executive board.
- ii. The President and Vice President may appoint any Afro-American Society member to a position with the majority approval of the Executive Committee if said position is currently vacant for any reason.

#### ***Sub-Section II: Elections***

- General Elections will be held no later than the third week of Spring term. These officers will assume responsibility the following fall. New officers will transitioned into their new positions by the current officers. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Attending executive meetings
  - Attending Afro-American Society events
  - Have at least 3 meetings with current executive members to go over events and brainstorm possible events
- Summer Elections can be held at a separate time from General Elections, yet no later than the **sixth** week of the Spring term. These officers will assume responsibility in the summer term. Their role as said officers would stop at the end of the summer.

- Freshmen Representative Elections will be held no later than the third week of Fall term.
- Special Elections will occur by the third week of each concurring term to fill all vacancies in the Executive Committee. These officers will assume responsibility immediately. New officers (except in the summer) will have the responsibilities of their office until they resign, leave campus, or general elections are held.
- In the event that an elected official leaves his/her seat vacant for a term, and attempts to return (see A under Appointments).
- Upon election to respective executive position, the executive-elect is responsible for signing AAm constitution contract, acknowledging that they have read the constitution and understood responsibilities.
- The Parliamentarian will run the election.
- Ballots may include all appropriate (elected) positions:
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Financial Secretary
  - Communications Chairperson
  - Male and Female Freshman Representatives
  - Cultural Chairperson
  - Academic Chairperson
  - Parliamentarian
  - Librarian/Historian
  - Community Service Chairperson
- *The Parliamentarian & Judiciary Committee will:*
  - Organize a calendar for the entire election procedure.
  - Organize the ballot vote of election procedures in an orderly fashion.
  - Tally votes and announce the results.
  - Make sure the general body is aware of the vote or election, the positions available, and the site of the vote.
  - In the event of a tie, determine when and where a re-vote shall take place
  - The protocol for nominations is a letter of intention. These nominations should be sent, in the form of a letter, to the Parliamentarian, requiring the signatures of the person nominating and the person who seconds the nomination. Elections will be by a anonymous survey sent out by the Communications Chairperson
  - For the Fall Term Elections: The aforementioned election duties will be performed by the Summer Term Parliamentarian.

### Sub-Section III: Appointments

- The President and Vice President will make all appointments by the **second** week of the term. The President will nominate individuals for different positions and with the approval of the Executive Committee said individuals will assume the responsibility immediately. Nominations from members of the Executive Committee can also be submitted to the President for consideration by the President.
- Appointed individuals have the option of keeping the position or stepping down provided that he/she fulfills the requirements of the position. The appointed persons' performance



will be evaluated by the Executive Committee, including that individual; however, he/she will not be able to vote on whether he/she has fulfilled the duties of the position. In the event that the appointed individual fails to meet the requirements of the position or decides to step down from the position. The elected person has the option of filling the seat.

- Vice-President appoints the Parliamentarian by the first executive board meeting.

### **Section V: Budget**

The budget process will proceed as follows:

- Budgets will be approved by the Executive Committee by the first executive board meeting. The General Body meeting following this approval, the budget will be voted on by the members of the Afro-American Society.
- The Financial Secretary will remind all elected and appointed officers at the first meeting that their budget is due by the next executive meeting. At this time, the Financial Secretary will meet with the administrative assistant to the Afro-American society and let those members know the contemporary pressing concerns and financial constraints of the Afro-American Society.
- After receiving the budgets, the Financial Secretary will appropriate funds under the supervision of president and vice president. Some requests will not be funded, however, the decisions concerning which events to cut are solely determined by their financial feasibility. The Financial Secretary's decisions are not to be made on personal preferences, but by the proposals received.
- Before the next General Body meeting, the Financial Secretary will compile the budget. After compiling the budget, the Financial Secretary will put the budget before the Executive Committee for approval.

### **Section VI: Amending the Constitution**

The Constitution of the Afro-American Society will be amended as follows:

- A simple majority vote of the Afro-American Society Executive Board.
- (IF approved by the Executive Board) A simple majority vote of the Afro-American Society general body.

### **Section VII: Special Powers of Executive Committee and Responsibilities**

In conjunction to providing leadership and direction for the Afro-American Society, the Executive Committee and its members will:

- Be able to appropriate up to \$300.00 in miscellaneous expenditure (defined as all moneys not appropriated for a specific event) per term without seeking the approval of the general Afro-American Society body.
- Be able to vote on funding an event if the program proposal is submitted no later than one executive meeting prior to the date the event is scheduled to occur. Additionally, only under the most extreme circumstances will the Afro-American Society Executive committee consider voting on whether to electronically support a program that has submitted a late proposal. Note: The privilege of retroactive funding is limited to once per academic term; the Executive Board strongly encourages groups seeking program funding to adhere to the aforementioned deadline.
- Present a proposed budget for Afro-American Society events to the financial secretary.

- Appoint cultural directorates, liaisons, and advisors from the Afro-American Society community to the executive committee.
- Will attend 3/4 of Executive meetings per term. Unless they have communicated with the President of their absence before the meeting or for extenuating circumstances. If they have not, the matter will then be referred to the Parliamentarian who may then summarily dismiss said executive.

**ARTICLE VI: STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN SOCIETY**

**Preamble**

- The integrity and proper functioning of the Afro-American Society is dependent upon the ability of Afro-American Society officers to exercise individual responsibility and respect for the rights of other students and administrators. The Afro-American Society also expects its officers to conduct themselves in such a way that is consistent with the goals of the Afro-American Society as an organization.

**Standard I**

- Afro-American Society officers must not exhibit any behaviors that either cause or threaten physical harm to another person or which might be interpreted to cause physical harm to another person.

**Standard II**

- Afro-American Society members are not to engage in behavior that poses a threat to the proper functioning of the Afro-American Society or to the safety of other students.
- In general, any behavior that interferes with the Afro-American Society's responsibility to protect the health and safety of its members or visitors, to protect Afro-American Society property or the property of others, or to provide its members with services would also be in violation of this standard.

**Standard III**

- Afro-American Society officers are prohibited from engaging in sexual abuse of any kind. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to:
  - Conduct of a sexual nature that is meant to threaten or intimidate the target person.
  - Intentionally touching an intimate part of another person's body without their consent.
  - Sexual intercourse gained by physical force, coercion, threat, or in a situation where a person is unable to give consent (i.e. sleep, impaired by drug use).

Afro-American Society officers are subject to disciplinary action for violation of the laws of any jurisdiction, whether local, state, federal, or foreign.

**Standard IV**

The Afro-American Society and its officers must adhere to College policies, rules, and regulations.

- A student is entitled to reasonable written notice of the exact nature of the charges against him or her.
- The student is also entitled to a reasonable period of time (at least five business days) in which to prepare his or her case.
- A charged student is entitled to review any evidence that has been compiled against him or her; they may also review the list of witnesses that are scheduled to speak at the hearing.
- After the hearing has been held, the Judiciary Committee will meet to decide whether or not to recommend the accused officer for disciplinary action by the General Body. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to:
  - Immediate dismissal from executive board and the Afro-American Society general membership.

### Appendix I

*Ujima Dance Troupe.* In conjunction with and following all rules and regulations of the Afro-American Society, Ujima Dance Troupe and its members will:

- Hold auditions open to the Dartmouth Community for Ujima Dance Troupe at least two times per school year, making sure that every potential member receives an equal opportunity and treatment.
- Ensure that Ujima Dance Troupe is a manageable number (best defined by the current Director).
- Be on time for 3/4 of all practices per term unless there are extenuating circumstances that the groups as a whole understands and agrees are acceptable. If this number of absences is violated then that member may be dismissed as part of Ujima Dance Troupe.
- Foster a positive working environment. In the event of disagreements, members are to present problems to Director so that they can be handled.
- Hold auditions for each dance. The choreographer of the dance and Director will choose who will be in the dance.

*Edited as of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 by Kyle Davy (Parliamentarian), Shawn Hawk (Vice President), and Nikkita McPherson (President)*