

Constitution of the Afro-American Society

*ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND
INFORMATION
(Current as of 5/29/05)*

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 cultural, social, political and academic expression. The Afro-American Society will be the primary means through which we achieve our desired goals.

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

- i. maintain a political and social voice for communities of the African Diaspora at Dartmouth College;
- ii. promote cultural, educational, and public awareness;
- iii. enhance the relationship and understandings among all students, faculty, and staff, and Black Alumni of Dartmouth College;
- iv. to strive to unify the diverse members 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 commonly referred to and recognized in the Dartmouth community as the "Afro-American Society."

ARTICLE II- MEMBERSHIP

Section I

The Afro-American Society offers membership to all undergraduate students with African heritage who are enrolled at Dartmouth College.

Section II

Any undergraduate students who are enrolled at Dartmouth College and who subscribe to the aims and goals of the Afro-American Society may seek membership.

In order to obtain associate membership, one must:

- A. have attended at least three general body meetings,
- B. submit a statement of intent to the Executive Committee and the general Afro-American Society body, through the Vice President
- C. upon completion of the aforementioned provisions, one must obtain a simple majority vote of approval from the general Afro-American Society body during a meeting.

Section III

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.

ARTICLE III- ADMINISTRATION

Section I: ELECTED OFFICERS

Sub-Section I: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will consist of:

- A. President
- B. Vice-President
- C. Financial Secretary
- D. Secretary/ Communications Chairperson
- E. Concerned Black Students (CBS) Chairperson
- F. Social Affairs Chairperson
- G. Male and Female Freshman Representatives
- H. Cultural Chairperson
- I. Academic Chairperson
- J. Historian
- K. Librarian
- L. Parliamentarian (appointed and non-voting)
- M. Community Service 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:

- A. One of the Afro-American Society advisors
- B. Five elected student members
 - a. In the event that there are no members and elections can not be held:
 - i. Parliamentarian will nominate two persons and the President, along with Vice President, will nominate three persons for approval by executive committee.
- C. 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 is nominated by the President and selected by the elected Executive Committee. The directorate consists of chairs for the following cultural groups:
Black Underground Theater and Arts
Black Praxis
Dartmouth Alliance for Children of Color (not limited to Afro-American Society membership)
Ujima

Sub-Section II: Liaisons

There will be an additional group of representatives, appointed by the Executive Committee, who will serve as liaisons between the Afro-American Society and the Dartmouth Community. These representatives will not be full voting members nor have all the rights and privileges of the executive board members. Said representatives are not required to attend executive board meetings but must present to the president a written update which the president will read in the executive board meetings. These representatives are only required to attend general body meetings.

These liaisons are currently, but not limited to:

- A) Black Alumni at Dartmouth Association (BADA) Liaison (Mandatory) – open communication with BADA Chairperson
- B) Green Key Representative
- C) Collis Governing Board
- D) Admissions Representative
- E) Student Assembly Representative
- F) Career and Employment Services (CES) Representative
- G) AfriCaso Liaison
- H) La Alianza Latina Liaison
- I) Native American at Dartmouth Liaison
- J) Milan Liaison
- K) Rockefeller Council Liaison
- L) MOSAIC Liaison
- M) PAC Liaison
- N) Women of Color Collective Liaison
- O) Homosexual, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Liaison

Sub-Section III: Primary and Secondary Advisors

The Advisory Committee will consist of five individuals. The five individuals will be appointed to their respective positions by appointment from the President and Vice-President and approval from the Executive Committee. Two of the five individuals will be known as the Primary Advisors. The stipulations for the primary advisor position are as follows: one primary advisor must be a man and the other a woman and both must be on campus. The remaining three individuals, whom will be known as secondary advisors, should be drawn from the following organizations: the Black Alumni at Dartmouth Association, the Black Caucus, and one of the graduate schools. Though it is not mandatory to explicitly draw advisors from the specified organizations, future Presidents and Vice-Presidents should seek to draw the remaining three advisors from those organizations. Note: the three secondary advisors will have less responsibility because the Exec Committee will not need to meet with them on a regular basis, but have them at our disposal to ask any questions or voice concerns that the Execs may have. The Advisory Committee will meet once a term and maintain conference calls with those advisors drawn from Black Alumni at Dartmouth Association.

ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section I: Duties of the Elected Officers

President will:

- A. serve as the official spokesperson of the Afro-American Society
- B. preside over and determine the agenda for the Executive Committee meetings
- C. with the support of the Executive Committee, have the power to ask for the resignation of any officer.
- D. have the power to initiate emergency election proceedings after an officer has resigned or has been asked to resign. In the interim, the responsibilities of this will be divided amongst the members of the Executive Committee.
- E. serve as presiding officer at general meetings in the absence of the Vice President
- F. Minutes of the Executive Committee will be kept in a separate journal by the President and passed down to his or her successor.
- G. [keep attendance of executive members present at Executive meetings.](#)

Vice President will:

- A. preside over and determine the agenda for the general meeting of the Afro-American Society
- B. determine when the general body will meet and call emergency general body meetings.
- C. with the support of the Executive Committee, appoint a parliamentarian
- D. serve as President when the President is absent
- E. be the Executive Director of all Afro-American Society committees.
- F. [keep attendance of executive members present at General Body meetings.](#)

Financial Secretary will:

- A. advise the Executive and Afro-American Society body on expenditures
- B. keep an accurate account of the Afro-American Society's budget
- C. present the budget proposal of the new executive committee at the second general body meeting each term
- D. oversee, along with the Executive Committee, expenditures from the petty cash fund
- E. be in residence for the fall, winter, and spring of his/her elected year unless serving for summer term only.
- F. ultimately serve as an impartial link between the Executive Committee and general Afro-American Society membership, requesting funding. As such she/he will not vote on budgetary expenditures
- G. go through financial training before the first week of classes.

Secretary/Communications Chair will:

- A. keep an accurate recording of all Executive and general body meetings and make minutes available to the Afro-American Society general body
- B. keep recordings of all correspondence (i.e.) mailings and phone messages
- C. order all necessary supplies for the Afro-American Society office.
- D. make sure general views and plans of the Afro-American Society are communicated to members by monthly calendar of Afro-American Society events
- E. be held responsible for disseminating all information to the body through Afro-American Society bulletins and mailings
- F. maintain contact with the Black Student Unions at other Colleges and Universities

Concerned Black Students Chairperson will:

- A. organize and head the CBS Committee. CBS is the political voice of the Afro-American Society which addresses issues of concern within the Dartmouth African Diaspora
- B. determine, with the support of the committee, the issues of concern the committee will address each term.

- C. keep the Dartmouth community informed on significant political issues and events, through forums, discussion and panels
- D. hold regular meetings with the committee and report the progress of the committee at the Executive Committee meetings

Social Affairs Chairperson will:

- A. be responsible for planning the social events of the Afro-American Society (including parties, picnics, receptions, recitals, etc.)

Male and Female Freshmen Representatives will:

- A. present freshmen concerns to Executive Committee
- B. inform the Freshmen class of freshmen and Afro-American Society events
- C. organize and plan freshmen events to include parents weekend

Cultural Chairperson will:

- A. organize and act as director of the cultural committee
- B. cultural committee will provide workshops and special programs for the Afro-American Society

Academic Chairperson will:

- A. organize and act as director of the Big Sibling/Little Sibling program
- B. academic committee will provide academic workshops and special programs for the Afro-American Society

Historian will:

- A. 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.
- B. formally instruct members on the Afro-American Society's history
- C. report on Afro-American Society events at general meetings.
- D. construct and update written history of the Afro-American Society

Librarian will:

- A. maintain an inventory of books in the Nels Armstrong library
- B. establish a circulation and cataloging system for books in the library
- C. be responsible for purchasing new books for the library

Parliamentarian will:

- A. 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
- B. serve as head of Judiciary Committee
- C. serve on and/or chair the Nominations Committee
- D. 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 (i.e. check that Financial Secretary will be present for fall, winter, and spring)

Community Services Chairperson will:

- A. remain in constant contact with the Tucker Foundation's Community Service Coordinator
- B. 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

- C. organize any community service requests from the greater Dartmouth Community deemed worthy of action

Judiciary Committee will:

- A. recommend impeachment of any officer for breach of this Constitution. This recommendation will be brought before the Afro-American Society Body for a majority vote of approval or disapproval
- B. review all Executive Committee nominations, elections, and impeachments in accordance with this Constitution
- C. accept and investigate all allegations involving breach of this Constitution
- D. act as the Nominations Committee
- E. update Constitution

Section II: Duties of Cultural Directorate

Black Underground Theater and Arts Representative will:

- A. organize and perform dramatic pieces throughout the year
- B. provide entertainment during special events of the year (i.e... Parents Weekend, Sophomore Parents Weekend, Perspectives weekend, Black History Month, etc.)

Black Praxis Editor will:

- A. be responsible for the assembly and distribution of the Black Praxis when funds are appropriated by the Executive Committee
- B. be responsible for the training of the editorial staff in the production of a Praxis

Dartmouth Alliance for Children of Color Chair will:

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

Ujima Director will:

- A. make regular reports on the status of Ujima and the dates of performances
- B. manage the budget of Ujima Dance Troupe
- C. suggest successor(s) upon graduation.
- D. follow the terms outlined in Appendix I of the Constitution of the Afro-American Society.

Section III: Duties of Liaisons

All liaisons will foster communication with their effective groups, provide support for programming in their respective groups, represent the Afro-American Society at respective groups' activities, and report back to the general body all information gathered.

ARTICLE V

Impeachments may occur when Officers, Liaisons, and Members of the Cultural Directorate violate the codes of conduct outlined in the bylaws of this document. Any member of the Afro-American Society may bring charges against an officer. The Judiciary Committee, headed by the Parliamentarian is responsible for investigating the claim, then recommending action.

Impeachment of any officer requires a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee and 4/5 vote of the Judiciary Committee. A simple majority vote of the general Afro-American Society body is required for expulsion.

ARTICLE VI

The Constitution must be amended by the Parliamentarian, under the guidelines in the bylaws. Any member may offer pertinent suggestions. However, they must move through the approval of the Afro-American Society body to be accepted.

ARTICLE VII

Providing the Constitution is followed, all sessions (fall, winter, spring, and summer) are considered equal under the law in this document. All decisions are considered sound and all changes in Afro-American Society policy respected.

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 or at least 20 members are present. After 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.

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:

- A. is not on College probation at the time of nomination
- B. runs for no more than one office per election
- C. upholds the standards enumerated in the *Student Handbook* (see chapter. on Academic
- D. and Conduct regulations.)
- E. has a minimum GPA of 2.3 (C+) at the time of election

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 or apprenticed the president or vice-president for two or more terms**

Any Afro-American Society member may be appointed to a position by the President and Vice President with the majority approval of the Executive Committee.

Sub-Section II: Elections

- A. 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 use this opportunity to work with incumbents during the spring term.
- B. Summer Elections will be held at a separate time from General Elections, yet no later than the eighth 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.
- C. Freshmen Representative Elections will be held no later than the third week of Fall term.
- D. 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 again.

Sub-Section III: Appointments

The President and Vice President will make all appointments by the third 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 for consideration by the President.

Sub-Section IV: Judiciary Committee

The Judiciary Committee will run the elections, headed by the Parliamentarian. Ballots may include all appropriate (elected) positions:

- President
- Vice-President
- Financial Secretary
- Secretary/Communications Chairperson
- Concerned Black Students (CBS) Chairperson
- Social Affairs Chairperson
- Male and Female Freshman Representatives
- Cultural Chairperson
- Academic Chairperson
- Parliamentarian
- Librarian
- Historian
- Community Services Chairperson

The Judiciary Committee will:

1. Organize a calendar for the entire election procedure.
2. Organize the ballot vote of election procedures in an orderly fashion.
3. tally votes and announce the results.
4. make sure the general body is aware of the vote or election, the positions available, and the site of the vote.
5. in the event of a tie, determine when and where a re-vote shall take place

The protocol for nominations is written nominations. 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 closed written ballot as determined by a simple majority vote of the ballots.

For the Fall Term Elections: The aforementioned election duties will be performed by the Summer Term Parliamentarian and Judiciary Committee.

Section V: Budget

The budget process will proceed as follows:

1. Budgets will be approved by the Executive Committee by the second full week of the term. The General Body meeting following this approval, the budget will be voted on by the members of the Afro-American Society.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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:

1. A 4/5 vote of the judiciary committee approving of any changes
2. A simple majority vote of the Afro-American Society Executive Board
3. (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:

- A. 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.
- B. 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 retroactively support a program that has submitted a late proposal. Note: The privilege of retroactive funding is limited to once per academic school year; the Executive Board strongly encourages groups seeking program funding to adhere to the aforementioned deadline.
- C. present a proposed budget for Afro-American Society events to the financial secretary.
- D. appoint cultural directorates, liaisons, and advisors from the Afro-American Society community to the executive committee.
- E. **will attend 3/4 of Executive meetings and 3/4 of General body meetings per term**. If so, the matter will then be referred to the Judiciary Committee, who may then summarily dismiss said executive.

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 might include, 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.

Procedure for Conducting Investigations

1.) Upon being informed of allegations about the conduct of an Afro-American Society officer, The Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing during which witnesses will be called and the accused party will have an opportunity to defend themselves. This hearing will occur no later than fifteen days after the officer is notified.

2.) 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.

3.) 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.

4.) 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:

- Probation for the duration of said officer's term in office. During this time if another offense were committed, the accused officer could then be recommended for Impeachment.
- Immediate [Dismissal](#).

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:

- A. 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.
- B. ensure that Ujima Dance Troupe is a manageable number (best defined by the current Director).
- C. be on time for 3/4 of all practices per term unless there are extenuating circumstances that the group 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.
- D. foster a positive working environment. In the event of disagreements, members are to present problems to Director so that they can be handled.
- E. hold auditions for each dance. The choreographer of the dance and Director will choose who will be in the dance.