

The Black Student Association
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
Constitution and Bylaws

PREAMBLE

Our commitment will be to enhance the student of color's experience while pursuing a graduate degree by promoting cultural diversity for the entire Mandel School community through educational seminars, workshops, and social opportunities. The organization also acts as a liaison to appropriate community resources and highlights relevant and pertinent issues in the black community.

PURPOSE

- Represent the interest and concerns of black students at the Mandel School.
- Facilitate and enhance the academic success of black students.
- Promote positive interaction, mutual respect, and understanding with other organizations.
- Create a sense of community and self-initiative for black students within the Mandel School.
- Establish and promote interaction among black student organizations on campus.
- Encourage pluralism on the part of the faculty, administration, and the student body at large.
- Support the incoming black students as they integrate into the campus environment.
- Discourage and abate institutional and individual acts and symbols of racism.

Article I – NAME

The name of this organization will be the Mandel School Black Student Association and will be referred to hereafter as the Black Student Association or BSA.

Section 1: Black Student Association will be sponsored by and affiliated with the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (The Mandel School) at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU).

Section 2: The Black Student Association will be sponsored by and affiliated with The Mandel Council.

Article II – MISSION

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for students of color attending the Mandel School, and empower people of color through advocacy, relationship building, and creating safe spaces for said groups to feel free from cultural persecution and stigma.

Article IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership in the Black Student Union shall be open to any enrolled Mandel School student – regardless of race, sex, national origin, color, or creed – who is

interested in improving human relations in general, and the quality of life for black student in particular on the campus of Case Western Reserve University.

Section 2: Students that are eligible for membership have the right to attend, vote, speak, propose and amend motions at open meetings.

Section 3: Members may be a candidate in BSA elections except where there are eligibility criteria for candidates agreed and laid out in the BSA bylaws. Members will obtain membership only if enrolled at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

Section 4: Members have the right to receive information regarding the bylaws of the Black Student Association, membership, budgets and financial reports, complaints, their rights or any other matter concerning the Black Student Association.

Article V – EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: The Executive Board shall be the governing body of the Black Student Association and shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2: The duties of the Executive Board officers are as follows:

- A.** The President shall chair the Executive Board and represent the interest of the Black Student Association during other events/functions, reserve spaces for events/meetings/activities, prepare meeting agendas, facilitate meetings, initiate events and ideas, assist all officers, serve as liaison with association advisor Lori Longs-Painter, finalize decision-making ideas/concerns, schedule meetings/officer outings.
- B.** Vice President shall assist in all duties of the President and shall assume the office and duties of President in lieu of an absence. Vice President shall call to order and adjourn the meeting of the General Assembly. Vice President shall also create flyers/ posters for events/ other activities. Vice President will coordinate organizational recruitment efforts and association elections.
- C.** The Secretary shall record minutes and distribute to General Assembly and Executive Board post meetings and shall make them readily available to members upon request. The Secretary shall keep records of attendance at all Black Student Association General Assembly and Executive Board meetings. The Secretary shall keep all files and calendars. The Secretary shall correspond with all Executive Officers and members around meetings, events, and other activities.

- D. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial correspondence pertaining to the Black Student Association. The Treasurer shall work in collaboration with the President for events/ activities according to budget, submit request for funds, prepare budget for events/ activities, and coordinate fundraising events. The Treasurer should be able to report financial records at meeting for the General Assembly and provide advisor with financial records at the end of the semester.

Section 3: The Executive Board Officers are allowed to miss only three Executive Board meetings and/or four General Assembly meetings annually, excluding the summer semester.

Section 4: Excused absences are limited to class/work conflicts, family emergencies, university excuses, and sickness collaborated by the Executive Board and/or Advisor.

Article VII – ELECTIONS

Section 1: There shall be an Elections Board, established to govern all elections; it shall consist of the two members of the Advisor of the Black Student Association and three members of the Black Student Association General Assembly.

Section 2: Any member of the Black Student Association running for an Executive Board Office shall not be eligible to serve on the Elections Board. The President with approval of the General Assembly shall appoint an alternative Black Student Association member to fill any vacancy that may occur.

Section 3: The Elections Board duties consist of approving the applications and platforms of each candidate, the additional voting procedures, the design of the official ballot and the certification of the vote tally.

Section 4: The following procedures shall govern elections:

- A. Elections shall be held during April of every academic year, unless a special election is needed to fill a vacancy.
- B. Black Student Association members must submit applications in order to run for an Executive Board Office. Applications will be accepted no later than one-week prior to election day, unless a special election is needed to fill a vacancy.
- C. The Elections Board shall hold a special meeting in which all Executive Board Office Candidates will be introduced. The Elections Board shall coordinate a debate among candidates for President and shall have the option to do so among candidates for other offices.

- D. All active member of the Black Student Association shall be eligible to vote in elections for the Executive Board Offices.
- E. There shall be no absentee voting unless approved by the Elections Board.
- F. A quorum, as defined in the Bylaws, is need to hold an election of Executive Board Officers.

Section 5: Newly elected Executive Board Officers shall be installed at the end of the Spring semester at the last Black Student Association General Assembly Meeting.

Section 6: Vacancies in the offices of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be filled through a special election. The Elections Board shall be responsible for all applicable duties outlined in Article VII, Section 3. Qualified Black Student Association members shall be nominated during the first General Assembly meeting held after vacancy. A special election shall be held the following General Assembly.

Article VIII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The power to present plans to amend or repeal any section of the Constitution rests in the Executive Board. Actions within the Constitution must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the active members, provided a quorum is present.

Article IX – IMPEACHMENT

Section 1: Any Executive Board Officer in violation of Article V, Section 3, in violation of any other section of the Constitution and Bylaws, and/or involved in any action that severely compromises the operation and integrity of the Black Student Association, must appear before the Executive Board for evaluation.

Section 2: In the event that violations have been proven through the evaluation process, a motion for impeachment shall be presented by the Executive Board.

Section 3: A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members, provided a quorum is present, is needed to remove an Executive Board Officer.

ARTICLE IX – BYLAWS

Section 1: Bylaws, when consistent with the Constitution, shall be adopted, amended or repealed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the active members, provide a quorum is present. Any active member of the Black Student Association can present action within the Bylaws to the Executive Board for approval, at which time the proposed action will be presented before the General Assembly.

BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

TITLE 1 – ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: All students eligible for membership shall be granted active member status upon completion of the membership application in the Fall semester. Those students that attend four meeting in the Fall shall retain active member status through the Spring semester.

Section 2: All students eligible for membership that are either unable to fulfill active membership requirements for the Fall semester or wishing to apply for membership for the Spring semester, shall be granted active member status upon the completion of four meetings.

TITLE II – QUORUM

Section 1: A quorum shall consist of 50 + 1% of Black Student Association members of active member status.

TITLE III – REPRESENTATION

Section 1: The Black Student Association shall be represented at the appropriate events put on by the Mandel School.

Section 2: The Black Student Association shall also be present at other events agreed upon by the Executive Board.

Section 3: One representative from the active body shall be required at all events in which the Black Student Association shall be represented.

TITLE IV – EXECUTIVE BOARD TRANSITION

Section 1: Incoming and outgoing Executive Board Officers shall hold a transition retreat no later than a week before the end of the Spring semester.

Section 2: New Executive Board Officers shall hold a retreat no later than a week before the start of classes for the Fall semester.

TITLE V – TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

Section 1: The Executive Board shall have the power to temporarily suspend certain sections of the Constitution and/or Bylaws provide there is a substantial organizational interest that makes suspension necessary.

Section 2: Motions to temporarily suspend a section of the Constitution or Bylaws must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the active membership provided a quorum is presented and shall be limited to the following sections:

- A. Article VII, Section 4 – Election Procedure
- B. Article VII, Section 5 – Candidate Qualifications
- C. Article VII, Section 6 – Officer Installation

TITLE VI – FALL SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Section 1: Special elections needed to fill offices vacated over the summer shall be filled in a special election to take place during the first meeting of the Fall semester.

Section 2: Black Student Association members that held active member status throughout the previous Spring semester shall have exclusive voting power in such an election.

TITLE VII – VOTER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1: Black Student Association members, of active member status, shall be eligible to cast votes for Elections and/or Bylaws matters no sooner than one week after submitting an approved application for membership.