

# **ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT AFRICAN AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD**

## **PREAMBLE**

**We, the members of the Student African American Brotherhood, in order to provide positive solutions to specific needs of Black males enrolled in college and to provide intentionally structured opportunities for Black males to take full advantage of their academic years and to better understand and practice their full responsibilities, rights, and privileges as future leaders and citizens of the United States; to provide educational, cultural, social, spiritual and intellectual programs that are grounded in theory that is culturally appropriate for Black males and will help to minimize the negative and accentuate the positive---presenting the brighter side to Black male students, do hereby establish these articles of organization and bylaws.**

**In attainment of our objectives, we commit ourselves to the membership of the Student African American Brotherhood, which is the heart of the organization, to the betterment of our organization by focusing special attention on the needs and concerns of disadvantaged Black males in Higher Education, and to Black Male Development as a process.**

# **ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Members in good standing are defined as males who are officially enrolled in a college/university sanctioned by the Executive Board and who have satisfied all financial obligations established by the local chapter and/or the national organization.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **POWERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

#### **Section 1: Quorum and Voting**

The Executive Board is the governing body of the Student African American Brotherhood organization. Decisions of this body shall be reached and become policy upon a majority vote of Board members present provided that a quorum exists. To have quorum, three-fourths (3/4) of the Board of Executive Leaders must be present.

#### **Section 2: Veto**

In all matters, the power of veto (for revision and resubmission only) is at the pleasure of the Advisor, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Recording Secretary, with proviso that these three officers are unanimously agreed on the issues. A veto may be overridden by a 3/4 majority vote of the membership of the Executive Board.

#### **Section 3: Executive Session**

The Executive Board shall meet with the Advisor at a time agreed upon by at least three-fourths (3/4) of the eligible board members. In executive session the Executive Board may discuss and take action on only the following: personnel selection and appointments, fiscal matters, revocation of membership, no member of the Board shall be excluded from attendance.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVE LEADERS**

The membership of the Executive Board shall consist of the Executive Director/Advisor, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Recording Secretary and Committee Chairpersons.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **GENERAL LIMITATIONS AND PROVISIONS**

No member, executive leader to include the advisor shall have any right, title or interest in or to the assets of S.A.A.B., and no part of the above shall inure to the benefit of same except for payment of reasonable compensation for services and property or the reimbursement of expenditures made for and on behalf of S.A.A.B. in keeping with its authorized exempt objectives.

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE V

#### QUALIFICATIONS, SELECTION, DUTIES AND TERMS OF OFFICE

##### Section 1: Identification of Candidates for S.A.A.B. Offices

The Advisor and/or selection committee appointed by the advisor shall solicit eligible candidates for S.A.A.B. offices and shall present the names of those candidates to the membership. Eligibility criteria for elections can be obtained from the Advisor and/or his designee. A campaign speech is presented to the membership by each candidate for the appropriate vacancy at a time designated by the Advisor and/or his designee. All candidates are voted on for nomination by all eligible members. The Advisor will confirm all position and/or vacancies on the Executive Board and Co-Chairpersons for each committee. The new Executive Board will preside the last three (3) meetings of the semester appointed or elected.

##### Section 2: OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

1. Chairman or President (may vary depending on chapter)
2. Vice Chairman or Vice President (may vary depending on chapter)
3. Recording Secretary
4. Advisor(s)

##### Section 3: STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE ORGANIZATION

1. Personal Development Committee-plans all educational programs.
2. Service Committee-coordinates all service-learning initiatives.
3. Financial Affairs Committee-coordinates all fiscal matters of the group.
4. Academic Committee-provides academic advising and support.
5. Spiritual-Enrichment/Social Committee-plans all spiritual and social events (i.e., church, movies, bowling, plays, etc.)
6. Membership/Public Relations Committee-coordinates all membership-related matters along with publicizing all S.A.A.B.-related events/programs.

(NOTE: Some chapters may choose to add additional chapters based on needs of their respective campus)

**ARTICLE VI**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

**Section 1: Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall have the power, by a simple majority vote to refine, suspend, expel, or take other appropriate disciplinary action against any member for any activity or conduct which is detrimental or prejudicial to the general organization for violation of any provision of this Constitution or By-Laws.

**Section 2: Citations**

Any member cited for three (3) unexcused violations of the S.A.A.B. Code of Conduct will be automatically place on inactive status. Violations may include, but not be limited to, tardiness, missing meetings, not paying dues and dress code incompliant. Inactive members will not be permitted to do the following:

1. Vote at all official S.A.A.B. meetings.
2. Attend all S.A.A.B. sponsored-events
3. Wear or possess a S.A.A.B. Uniform (i.e., vest).
4. Hold any official office of the organization

Inactive members desiring to be reinstated must submit a letter of appeal to the Membership Committee within seven (7) days of notification in writing of inactive status. Once a letter has been submitted, the Membership Committee will deliberate and make a recommendation to the Executive Board for approval within seven (7) working days of receiving the letter of appeal. The Membership Committee will notify the individual in writing within 48 hours of the Executive Board's decision. If reinstatement is granted, a \$15 reinstatement fee will be required by the next scheduled S.A.A.B. meeting in order to be considered an active member. Failure to submit a letter of appeal in the time allotted or to pay the reinstatement fee may result in expulsion from the organization. At no point in this process are dues refundable. (THIS POLICY MAY VARY FROM CHAPTER TO CHAPTER)

**ARTICLE VII**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Section 1: Dress Code**

Each member will be expected to adhere to the dress code as outlined by the Executive Board. The Dress Code can vary from semester to semester and chapter to chapter; however, a S.A.A.B. Dress-Up Day will be designated once a meeting date/time is established per semester. Members experiencing problems with complying with this policy should direct all concerns/questions to the Advisor and/or Executive Board.

From time to time, each member may be issued a S.A.A.B. vest for various functions. S.A.A.B. vests are to maintained and returned in the condition issued. The penalty for lost or damaged vest may result in an member being assessed a fee, which will be equal to the value of the vest.

**Section 2: Meetings**

Each member will be expected to attend all regular scheduled S.A.A.B. meetings and appointed committed meetings. All excused absences will be approved by the Parliamentarian. Any major discrepancies will be deliberated by the Membership Committee. Any officer missing at least one (1) meeting deemed unexcused may be subject to abdicating their office per the approval of the Executive Board. Only two excused absences will be permitted per semester for any officer. Exceptions for extenuating circumstance will be granted by the Executive Board.

**Section 3: S.A.A.B. Sponsored-Events**

Each member will be expected to attend all S.A.A.B. sponsored events sanctioned by the membership during regular S.A.A.B. meetings. Any member experiencing extenuating circumstances that would prevent attending an event should notify the Parliamentarian immediately.

**Section 4: Dues**

Each member may be expected to pay dues as determined by the chapter. All dues-related policies will be developed and approved by the chapter.

**Section 5: S.A.A.B. Mentoring Program (Project A.C.E.)**

All mentors of the S.A.A.B. Mentoring Program must maintain an active status with the organization at all times. Further, each mentor will be governed by the criteria/responsibilities outlined on the Mentor/Protege Contract. Each chapter is expected to participate in the mentoring program; however, there may exist challenges for some chapters depending on opportunities to establish a relationship with schools in their local community.

## ARTICLE VIII

### RULES OF ORDER AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

**Section 1: Rules of Order**

Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) shall be the authority in all questions of procedures unless otherwise stated in these articles and Bylaws.

**Section 2: Amendments**

These Articles of Organization and Bylaws may be amended at any time by the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board of Executive Leaders and shall be effective upon presentation to the Advisor.