

Constitution of the African Students Association University of Idaho, USA.

Preamble: The African Students Association was established at the University of Idaho with the aim of promoting the African heritage on campus and the surrounding communities. As an association a constitution was developed and members agreed to abide by its provisions. Proposal to amend the constitution was adopted in a general meeting in November 2008.

Article I-Name

Section 1- The name of the organization shall be African Students Association, hereafter referred to by the acronym (ASA)

Article II - Purpose

Section 1 -

- The ASA aims to promote and preserve cultural heritage of Africans through activities and events
- To foster a fraternal relationship and better understanding among fellow Africans
- To project the African image in the American society through social and cultural activities
- To welcome new African students to the University of Idaho
- To maintain the involvement of new and existing members in the Association.

Article III - Affiliations

Section 1 - The ASA has no national Affiliations

Article IV – Membership

Section 1-The majority of membership of this organization shall consist of regularly enrolled undergraduate and graduate students of the University of Idaho. Only those members who are currently registered University of Idaho students have voting privileges.

Section 2-University staff and faculty, and non-University persons may have associate membership status. However, they may not have voting privileges.

Section 3- Any University of Idaho student may be considered eligible to be an active member and may hold office.

Section 4-Membership in this organization is open to all University of Idaho students meeting the above criteria, irrespective of race, color, gender, class, nationality, disability, religion, Vietnam Veteran status, or sexual orientation.

Article V – Officers

Section 1 – The executive officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Officer, and Public Relations Officer.

President:

- Maintains overall responsibility for ASA activities
- Acts as official spokesperson for ASA
- Creates the agenda for each meeting and (notifies) all meeting attendees by the proposed agenda one day in advance of each scheduled meeting
- Leads all business and officer meetings
- Appoints electoral and other committees to be approved by 2/3 majority of the Executive Board
- Coordinates overall organization of ASA
- Works directly with the ASA Advisor

Vice President

- Assumes duties of the President in his/her absence
- Assists in organizing and running of programs and events

Secretary

- Maintains attendance records as needed
- Takes notes and produces minutes of all meetings within 48 hours of meeting completion
- Attends to official ASA correspondence as necessary
- Records accurate and formal minutes of all Executive meetings

Treasurer

- Maintains accurate records of ASA finances
- Monitors ASA University funding
- Develops in consultation with the Executive, ASA University funding proposal and assists in the presentation before the Finance Committee
- Pays ASA bills, collects and deposits revenues
- Oversees collection and records membership payments
- Prepares and submits periodic financial statements to the Executive and members at the end of every semester and within 48 hours of every major ASA activity.

Welfare Officer

- Welcoming new students and existing students that attend UI
- Serve as liaison between new members and existing students (mentorship)

- Responsible for coordinating mentorship and networking opportunities

Public Relations Officer

- Increase membership and involvement in ASA related external activities
- Spokesperson for ASA under the direction of the President
- Responsible for creating a positive image in spoken/written messages for ASA

Section 2 – Terms of Office

The term of office for the elected president shall not be more than one year. Other elected officers are eligible to contest for another term if they are qualified. Elections should be held at such a time to allow newly elected officers to learn the duties and organizational processes from incumbent officers before and up to the time of planning for a major event whereupon within a reasonable period afterwards they will assume office.

Section 3 – Termination of Service

- Should a member not be able to fulfill his/her term, such member should officially inform the executive not later than a week before his/her resignation. The executive board, within a week, will approve such resignation and select a replacement with the approval of the majority of the ASA members.
- Officers, elected or otherwise, will be suspended from their positions, if found wanton of an act of violation against the provisions of the constitution. Such a penalty will be determined and invoked by the Traditional Judiciary Council; the same shall recommend the duration of suspension or expulsion from the position if necessary. Any member(s) can officially notify the Traditional Judiciary Council with tangible evidence of an act of violation and the Traditional Judiciary Council has the responsibility of treating such a report with complete fairness, and confidence within a week of the complaint.

Section 4 – Traditional Judiciary Council

As a means of internal mediation of any disputes that may arise within the organization, litigants must first face an internal judiciary hearing where a panel of three appointed non-office holding active members are to inquire and pass judgment on those individual(s) found in conflict with the by-laws and or ethics of the organization. The judiciary council must consist of non-partisan members and without close ties/friendship(s)/or relationship(s) to any litigant. If the issue cannot be resolved internally, it will be forwarded to ASUI's Judiciary Council and the University administration where penalties dependent on the issue maybe much greater than sanctions imposed by the organization. Failure to adhere to the request of the panel

may result in suspension from participating in the organization of ASA functions or the organization until the demands sought by the judiciary council or ASUI judiciary boards have been met. Anyone (officers, active/non-active members and appointees) despite organizational standing or position that performs an act(s) that may directly impair the functioning of the organization maybe subject to mediation performed by the traditional judiciary council.

Article VI – Elections

Section 1 – Elections will take place at a specified date each spring semester

Section 2 – Any Full member may run for office. The eligible members will vote by secret ballot, one vote per person

Section 3 – Majority vote constitutes an appointment

Section 4 – Electoral Committee: this shall consist of at least two members selected from registered members who do not intend to contest for any position and/or associate members. This committee shall coordinate and ensure free and fair election of officers. Members have the right to protest against the results of elections within 48 hours and such a complaint should be officially directed to the Traditional Judiciary Council. The Council shall investigate the matter and publish its findings and recommendations within one week of the complaint. In the case wherein at least one party is not satisfied with the recommendations, the same hierarchical procedure as detailed in Article V, Section 5, of this constitution will be followed.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1 – General meetings will be open to all organization active and associate members, faculty and students. The meetings are to be organized and controlled by the elected officers of the ASA.

Section 2 – A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of voting members present at any formal or special meeting

Article VIII – Executive Board

Section 1 – This shall consist of the President, Vice President, the Secretary, Public Relations Officer, Treasurer and welfare officer.

Section 2 – The board shall meet as often as needed

Section 3 – Reports will be made available to ASA members at their request

Article IX – Advisors

Section 1 – In compliance with the University of Idaho regulation that all campus associations/clubs should have an advisor, the ASA shall have one University of Idaho faculty or staff member as an advisor

Section 2 – The Advisor is to be elected annually. Consultation with the individual in that office at the time is necessary.

Section 3 – The duties and responsibilities of the Advisor will be to serve as liaison between the ASA and the University Administration. The advisor is also expected to provide visible support to ASA activities.

Article X – Constitutional Amendments

Section 1 – the constitution may be amended by a vote of 2/3s majority membership at any formal or special meeting.

Article XI – Statement of Compliance with Campus Regulations

Section 1- the organization shall comply with University and campus policies and regulations, local, state and federal laws.

Section 2- Quorum

At any meeting of the ASA 2/3 majority of membership in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3- The dissolution of Organization

The organizations property and funds will be designated to the appropriate University of Idaho department unless evidence of ownership proves otherwise.