This Constitution is the Approved and Official Constitution for:

Club Name: Black Student Union
From the People of Color Council
Number of Pages: 9
Date Approved: 5/2/19

Club Officer
Position: President
Name: Avenoumou Barry
Signature: 
Date: 05/02/2018

Council Coordinator
Name: Devin Forde
Signature: 
Date: 05/02/19

Student Association Vice President
Name: Anissa Evelyn
Signature: 
Date: 5/2/19
Constitution of the Black Student Union

Article I

Name

The official name of this organization shall be the Black Student Union, and may be abbreviated to B.S.U.

Article II

Purpose

The Black Student Union goals and purposes are to:

1. To educate members and non-members on issues that have previously and that are presently affecting the black community
2. To increase understanding between different cultures within the black community
3. To help increase self-knowledge and understanding
4. To keep members informed on issues that affect Blacks
5. To emphasize the existence and role of Blacks at the University at Buffalo
6. To preserve and perpetuate Black culture, dignity, and self-awareness
7. To increase admission of Blacks into the University at Buffalo
8. To Attack problems of Black culture stemming from American society

Article III

Membership Requirement

Section I

Any undergraduate student at the University at Buffalo may become a member of BSU. BSU honors the Student Association’s full participation policy of undergraduate students.

Section II

Voting membership/active membership shall be bestowed to only full-time and part-time undergraduate University at Buffalo students that complete the following:

a) Attend five (5) general or committee meetings per semester
b) Remain a full-time or part-time undergraduate student at the University at Buffalo

Non-voting membership/general membership shall be open to graduate students, alumni faculty, and the community throughout the University at Buffalo

Section III – Duties and Functions

a) To elect executive board members
b) To attend and support BSU functions
c) To initiate and vote in recall proceedings
d) To vote on constitutional changes and amendments
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Section VI – Proof of Membership

a) Will be provided by the Secretary
b) Must be presented at all voting procedures

Article V

Executive Authority

The executive authority shall be vested in the executive officers, which are the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Activities Coordinators, Publicity Coordinators, and Historians

Section I

Only full-time undergraduate University at Buffalo students may be officers of the club. All officers must be in academic good standing according to the University at Buffalo to become and stay officers of this club.

Section II

The election process shall consist of the following:

a. Applicants must submit a maximum of one page (typed) stating why he/she wants to run for an Executive position
b. Must submit a complete application on the day of elections
c. Must debate issues affecting the Black community
d. Petition – must have at least twenty-five active/voting members signatures, in addition to the application.
e. Must be in good academic standing and must be able to prove so. Requirements – 2.0 overall grade point average. University at Buffalo academic integrity standards must apply to your representation of your academic standing.
f. Must shadow current executive officer(s) in desired position to become familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the executive officer
g. Must be nominated by at least one active/voting member and receive a second from an active/voting member.
h. Must be a full time undergraduate student at the University at Buffalo

Section II – Elections

a. Elections must be held before the last day of classes of the spring semester of that year
   I. In the event an election has taken place before the last day of classes of the spring semester and there are vacancies, the officers who were elected will remain as the
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officers for the summer, however, a new election must take place by the first of October of the upcoming fall semester
b. In order to conduct elections a minimum of twenty (20) voting members must be present
c. Elections can only take place if the Elections and Credential Chair of the Student Association is present, if they are not available then alternative the People of Color Council Coordinator
d. Executive board members shall serve one full year beginning at the conclusion of the spring semester, including the summer and winter breaks. Unless recalled for improper conduct. (Article IX, Section I)

Section IV - Officers and Responsibilities

1. President
   a. Shall have one vote on executive board
   b. Shall have the ultimate responsibility for the enforcement of the Constitution
   c. Shall be the chief executive officer of the Black Student Union
   d. Shall be the official representative of the Black Student Union both inside and outside the University
   e. Shall have the power to call executive meetings whenever deemed necessary
   f. Shall upon the creation of a vacancy in the executive committee, call an election to fill in the vacancy within four (4) weeks
   g. Shall preside over all executive meetings
   h. Shall be ultimately responsible for coordinating the activities of the executive body
   i. Shall not have the power to appoint executive board members, except in the case of discernable emergency
   j. Shall serve as advisor of the Black Student Union committees in the absence of the Vice President

2. Vice President
   a. Shall exercise one vote on the executive board.
   b. In the absence of the President assume full responsibility of that office and his/her own.
   c. Shall upon the creation of a vacancy in the office of the president shall assume the presidency, serve out the remaining term in office, and hold elections to fill the vice-presidency within four (4) weeks.
   d. Shall represent B.S.U on occasions designated by the president.
   e. Shall assist the president in coordination of the operation of the executive body.
   f. Shall preside over all general membership meetings or designate another member of the executive board to do so.
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3. **Treasurer**
   a. Shall exercise one vote on the executive board.
   b. Shall be responsible for all business transactions of the Black Student Union along with the President.
   c. Shall withhold transactions that require approval of the top 4 officials.
   d. Shall ensure that the Black Student Union's funds are not mishandled and shall investigate all mishandling of funds when necessary.
   e. Shall report status of budget to executive board.

4. **Secretary**
   a. Shall exercise one vote on the executive board.
   b. Shall be responsible for recording all minutes of Executive meetings.
   c. Shall be responsible for reserving all campus and non-campus facilities for all Black Student Union sponsored meetings, activities, and events.
   d. Shall be responsible for obtaining any permit, license, or official permission required for all Black Student Union sponsored meetings, activities, and events.
   e. Shall be responsible for tracking all of BSU’s general meetings, executive meetings, and events.
   f. Must have all minutes available upon request

5. **Activities Coordinator (2)**
   a. Shall exercise one vote on executive board respectively.
   b. Shall be responsible for the negotiations and arrangements for all Black Student Union functions and activities.
   c. Must assist Treasurer and/or President in spending procedures for events.
   d. Responsible for creating and submitting proposals and contracts with other clubs.

6. **Publicity Coordinator (2)**
   a. Shall exercise one vote on executive board respectively.
   b. Will be responsible for maintaining and updating all publications pertaining to the Black Student Union.
   c. Will be responsible for publicizing all events (media, newspaper, radio etc.)

7. **Historian (2)**
   a. Shall have one vote on the executive board respectively.
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b. Must archive publications relating to BSU as directed by the President.
c. Shall present disseminating information relevant to Black culture to membership at every general meeting.

d. Shall be responsible for updating our social media platform with daily news or historical facts. 2 post per day.

Section V – Executive Cabinet

The executive cabinet shall consist of four (4) Chairs. Their names shall be:

1) Black Men United Co-Chairs. Shall be interviewed an appointed by the new President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary after the spring election. This is not an elected position.
2) Black Women United Co-Chairs. Shall be interviewed and appointed by the new President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary after the spring election. This is not an elected position.
3) Community Service Chairperson. Shall be interviewed and appointed by the new President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary after the spring election. This is not an elected position.
4) Cultural Chair – This position can be appointed at the discretion of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section VI – Executive Cabinet Duties

The duties of the executive cabinet are as followed:

a. Black Men United must have at least two meetings per month
b. Black Women United must have at least two meetings per month
c. Community Service Chairperson must coordinate and facilitate community service projects
d. Cultural Chair’s responsibilities are at the discretion of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Article VI

Section I – Advisors

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary must appoint an advisor(s).

Section II – Faculty Advisor

a. Must be a member of the State University at Buffalo Administration or Faculty
b. Must serve as advisor for one academic year

Section III - Student Advisor
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a. Must have served on the executive board for a full term
b. Must serve as advisor for one academic year
c. Undergraduate advisors must be a student of the University at Buffalo

Section IV – Duties

All official advisors must:

a. MUST work with the People of Color Council Coordinator and/or the SA Elections and Credentials officer and act as investigators in recall proceedings. (see Article VIII, Section I, line C)

Article VII

Meetings

Section I

a. Executive meetings shall be held weekly each semester of the academic year
b. President shall have the power to call emergency executive meetings when deemed necessary

Section II

a. General meetings shall be held at least twice a month
b. The Vice President shall preside over all general meetings or designate another member of the executive board to do so
c. All required general meetings must provide
   a. All upcoming events and activities
   b. When general meetings are involving elections, they must reach quorum which is fifty percent (50%) of our active/voting membership
d. The functions of general meetings shall be to:
   a. Elect executive board members
   b. Discuss issues that affect the Black community inside and outside the University
   c. Initiate and vote in all recall procedures
   d. To make any changes to the BSU constitution and amendments

Article VIII – Referendum and Recall

Section I – Recall

a. A petition proposed by 1/3 of active/voting membership must initiate recall of officers.
b. Petition validity
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i. The charges that an officer has failed to invest sufficient time and effort into the duties of the position

ii. The charge that an officer has failed in carrying out his/her duties.

iii. The charge that an officer has committed illegal acts.

iv. The charge that an officer has irresponsibly or immorally used the powers or privileges of the position

v. The charge that an officer has used, has attained, or currently holds the position unconstitutionally is valid

vi. The charge that an officer has failed to meet three given deadlines

c. The official advisors MUST work alongside the People of Color Council Coordinator and/or the SA Elections and Credentials Chair to investigate the charges and to establish the validity of the claims against the accused officer. The official advisors, People of Color Council Coordinator and/or the SA Elections and Credentials officer must report their conclusions at the next required general meeting following the recall initiation.

d. Immediately following the official advisors, People of Color Council Coordinator and/or the SA Elections and Credentials officer reports a twenty (20) minute debate to argue both sides. The official advisors, People of Color Council Coordinator and/or the SA Elections and Credentials officer will allow each speaker to hold the floor for a maximum of two minutes, and will mediate this debate.

e. If quorum has been attained, a majority vote to remove the accused will be taken of the active/voting membership immediately after debate.

Section II

a. If an officer resigns or is recalled from office, an election for the vacant position should be held within four academic weeks of the date the vacancy becomes effective.

b. The Vice President will assume the duties of the vacant office temporarily until a permanent replacement is elected.

c. If the Vice Presidency is the vacant office, the President will assume the position temporarily.

Section III

a. If members of the Executive Cabinet are not fulfilling their roles, they can be removed at the discretion of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Article IX

Section I - By-Laws

This constitution shall be supplemented with By-Laws. These By-Laws are solely to specify and add clarity to procedures listed in this constitution. These by-laws shall not override or contradict
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any statement made in this constitution. Any ambiguity or contradiction within these by-laws defers interpretation to the explicit wording of this constitution. Any by-laws created for the supplementation of this constitution must be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Student Association

Section II – Executive Board Conduct

Executive Board Members are expected to:

a. Not share confidential BSU information with individuals who are not on the Executive Board. This includes Active and General Members, “old school” Executive Board members, executive board members of other organizations, and close friends. Use absolute discretion.

b. Refer individuals who submit questions or comments pertaining to confidential BSU information to the President or Vice-President.

c. Refer individuals who submit questions or comments pertaining to BSU's budget to the General Ledger provided by the Student Association.

d. Refer individuals who submit questions or comments pertaining to collaborate with BSU to the President or Vice-President.

e. Never respond to negative comments concerning BSU in any way. The President and Vice-President will address these matters directly.

f. Never negatively comment another organization’s meeting, event, program, etc.

g. Refer to approved designated promotion schemes created by Publicity Coordinators.

h. Release information pertaining to a meeting, event, or program only when logistics are finalized, and given the okay from the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary.

i. Encourage all Active and General Members to refer to BSU social media accounts for the most up-to-date information.

j. Be up-to-date on hot topics affecting the Black community.

k. Remain professional in public settings and on social networks while representing BSU

l. The People of Color Council Coordinator is also subjected to all the above rulings in Article IX, Section II – Executive Board Conduct

Section III – Black Men United/ Black Women United Meetings

Black Men and Black Women United Meetings

a. Are held once a week, alternatively from each other each week
   a. Meaning if Black Men United have a meeting on Week 1, Black Women United must have a meeting on Week 2

b. Are aligned with the larger struggles of African Men and Women at University at Buffalo, United States of America, and across the world.

Section IV – Events
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To uphold BSU traditions, annual events are held to promote Black Excellence and Awareness on the University at buffalo’s Campus and in the Buffalo Community

BSU holds other events based on public demand and circumstances. Community service events also align with BSU’s traditions and obligations as students in the Buffalo Community.

Article X

Amendments

Amendments to this constitution must be proposed in writing to the executive board at a required executive board meeting, the majority of the active/voting members must accept the proposal for consideration.

Article XI

Ratification

a. This constitution shall take effect immediately following the approval of the active/voting membership, and the approval of the Student Association.
b. Current officers will remain in respective positions for the term under this constitution
c. This document shall be the official constitution of the Black Student Union
d. Amendments to this constitution and by-laws may not violate any Student Association, University at Buffalo, Student Mandatory Activity Fee Guidelines, New York State, or Federal rules, regulations, or laws.
e. Once passed, the amendment(s) and an updated constitution must be turned into the Student Association Office and the Council Coordinator for review and approval
f. Any voting member may propose an amendment to the club constitution

Article XII

Dissolution of the Union

1. When the Union dissolves, all properties under BSU shall be returned to the Student Association
