

Constitution

ARTICLE I. Name and Governing Authority

Section I. The Association shall be known as the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS).

Section II. Governing Authority. The Association is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware pursuant to Articles of Incorporation filed on August 6, 1976. The Association shall be governed by this Constitution and Bylaws as amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions hereof. This Constitution and its Bylaws shall not conflict with the Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE II. Objectives

Section I. The objectives of the ABS shall be:

- a. to enhance the transmission of sociological knowledge to Black communities for their utilization in development and survival;
- b. to provide perspectives for the analysis of Black experiences as well as knowledge for understanding and resolving the varied problems confronted by Black people;
- c. to stimulate and improve the quality of research and the teaching of Sociology;
- d. to promote a substantial increase in the numbers of professionally trained Black Sociologists and to encourage their active participation in all areas of Sociology;
- e. to promote the individual and collective interests of Black Sociologists; and
- f. to protect the professional rights and safeguard the civil rights of Black Sociologists against any and all repressive measures which may stem from their values, ideologies, and/or activities related to the aforementioned objectives.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section I. Eligibility. Membership is open to any person interested in achieving the objectives of the ABS as expressed in Article II. NO person shall be refused membership by reason of racial, ethnic, or national origin; class; gender; age; sexual orientation; sexual identity; body image; religious preference; family status; location; or area of academic specialization.

Section II. Categories of Membership. Membership in the ABS shall be divided into four categories: Regular, Associate, Student, and Life.

Section III. Regular Members. All Regular Members may vote and hold elective office in the ABS. Eligibility shall be based upon having at least the Bachelor's degree in Sociology or equivalent professional training as determined by the Membership Committee.

Section IV. Associate Members. All associate members may vote but shall not be eligible to hold elective office. Eligibility shall be based upon having an interest in the field of sociology while neither degreed nor practicing in the field.

- Section V. Student Members. All Student Members may vote and hold elective office except that of National President of the ABS. Eligibility shall be based on evidence of active matriculation at either the undergraduate or graduate level at an institution of higher education, as determined by the Membership Committee.
- Section VI. Life Members. All Life Members may vote and hold elective office in the ABS. Student Life Members are excluded from holding the office of National President of the ABS until such time as at least the Bachelor's degree in Sociology or equivalent professional training is obtained.
- Section VII. Membership Year. The membership year shall be the regular calendar year – January 1 through December 31.
- Section VIII. Termination of Membership.
- a. Failure to pay dues. Failure of a member to pay his or her dues for any membership year by a date to be fixed by the Executive Committee automatically terminates membership.

On request and payment of current dues, anyone whose membership has been automatically terminated for nonpayment of dues may be reinstated.
 - b. Removal for Cause. If continued membership of any person is believed to be contrary to the interests, objectives, or ethical standards of the ABS, the Executive Committee shall conduct investigations and hearings. Before final action is taken to terminate membership, the member shall be given the opportunity for defense. Membership shall be terminated by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Terms

Section I. Elected Officers.

The National President and the National President-Elect shall be elected by the active membership (Regular, Associate, Student, and Life). The National President-Elect shall be elected for a two-year term, and shall automatically become the National President for one year after an initial one year as President-Elect. An individual must be a continuously active member of the ABS for at least three years prior to being nominated for the position of President-Elect.

The Secretary shall be elected by the active membership (Regular, Associate, Student, and Life). The Secretary shall be elected for a two-year term. The person must be an active member of ABS.

Section II. Appointed Officers.

The National President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, a Treasurer who shall serve a term of three years and may be eligible for reappointment for additional three-year terms. The person must be an active member of the ABS.

The National President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, an Executive Officer of the Association who shall serve a term of three years subject to the annual written review of the Executive Committee. The Executive Officer may be eligible for reappointment for additional three-year terms, all subject to annual written review of the Executive Committee. The person must be an active member of the ABS.

The National President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, a Membership Chair who shall serve a term of three years and may be eligible for reappointment to additional three-year terms. The person must be an active member of the ABS.

The National President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, a Publications Chair who shall serve a term of four years and may be eligible for reappointment to additional four-year terms. The person must be an active member of the ABS.

The National President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee and the Publications Committee, an Editor of the ABS official journal who shall serve a term of four years and may be eligible for reappointment for additional four-year terms. The person must be an active member of the ABS.

The National President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee and the Publications Chair, a Newsletter Editor who shall serve a term of three years and may be eligible for reappointment to additional three-year terms. The person must be an active member of the ABS.

Section III. The terms of all elected and appointed officers shall begin at the conclusion of the annual conventions.

Section IV. Vacancies. If an officer is unable or fails to perform her/his duties satisfactorily over a period of time, the Executive Committee also has the authority to take other reasonable steps to preserve intact the office of the ABS and to maintain the continuity of the Association's operations.

ARTICLE V. The Executive Committee

Section I. Governance. The Association of Black Sociologists shall be governed by an Executive Committee comprised of ten persons. The National President, the National President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Immediate Past President, the Membership Committee Chair, and the Publications Committee Chair shall automatically become members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall also contain three Elected-at-Large Members, one of whom shall be a Student Member Representative.

- a. The Student Representative Member shall be elected initially to serve a term of one year, and thereafter, terms of one year.
- b. Two Elected-at-Large Executive Committee members shall serve staggered terms. Initially one Member-at-Large shall be elected for a term of three years and the other for a term of two years. Thereafter, both shall be elected for terms of two years.

Section II. Authority. The Executive Committee shall be the chief policymaking and governing body of the ABS. It shall exercise those powers and responsibilities delegated to it and not assigned to other officers and committees.

It shall establish guidelines for the operation and conduct of the officers of the ABS. It is also vested with the responsibility of interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall communicate its actions to the full membership of the ABS within sixty days following its meetings.

Section III. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet at the time of the Annual Convention of the ABS and when called into session by a majority of the Executive Committee or at least once each year. The National President shall preside over the meetings of the Executive Committee.

Section IV. Quorum. One-half of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum, and, unless otherwise specified, decisions shall be by a majority of those present. In the absence of a quorum, necessary business shall be done by postal mail, electronic mail, or telephone.

ARTICLE VI. Committees

- Section I. Standing Committees. The Standing Committees of the ABS shall be: Budget and Finance; Membership; Nominations; Program; Publications; and Research.
- a. Standing Committees may be established or discontinued by the Executive Committee. With the exception of the Publications Committee, they shall have not fewer than three members appointed by the National President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. Chair and member appointments shall be for two-year staggered terms.
 - b. The Publications Committee shall consist of the following members: Chairperson, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Book Review Editor, and six members elected by the membership to serve staggered three-year terms. The Journal Editor will serve ex-officio on the committee. The Chair of the Publications Committee shall serve a four-year term and shall be appointed by the National President with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
 - c. The duties of Standing Committees shall be described in a charge from the Executive Committee.
- Section II. Ad Hoc Committees. The National President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint Ad Hoc committees and other necessary committees to conduct the affairs of the ABS.

ARTICLE VII. Finances

- Section I. Dues and Special Assessments for all categories of membership shall be established by the Executive Committee subject to approval by a majority of the active members who respond within thirty days to a mail ballot.
- Section II. The Executive Committee shall determine the fiscal period for the ABS. Prior to expiration of one fiscal period, the Executive Committee shall provide for an operating budget for the next fiscal period. When approved, this budget shall govern financial commitments of the ABS during the fiscal period concerned. The National President shall furnish the membership with a report of the approved budget.
- Section III. All receipts and disbursements shall be made only through bank accounts authorized by the Executive Committee.
- Section IV. The financial records of the ABS shall be subject to external audit every three years with the authorization of the Executive Committee.
- Section V. In keeping with its objectives, the ABS may receive grants and contributions from members and other interested parties to carry out its programs and objectives, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. Meetings

- Section I. The National President shall call an Annual Convention of the Association of Black Sociologists. The time and place and the conduct of the Annual Convention shall be determined by the Executive Committee. At least one business meeting shall be conducted at the Annual Convention during which the National President and the Treasurer shall present individual reports to the membership.
- Section II. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year.
- Section III. Resolutions for consideration by the membership should be mailed to the Executive Officer at least 30 days prior to the Annual Convention.

Section IV. All meetings shall be conducted according to *Roberts Rules of Order*.

Section V. Referenda. At least 10% of the Regular and Life Members may submit to the Executive Committee a proposed referendum with any arguments advanced by its sponsors. The Executive Committee, with its arguments and recommendations for or against the proposed referendum, must submit the proposed referendum to the Regular and Life Members for action. Adoption of a referendum shall follow procedures described in Article IX for the adoption of an amendment to the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX.

Section I. The Constitution of the ABS may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of Regular and Life Members who respond within 30 days to a mailed ballot to the full membership.

ARTICLE X.

Section I. The corporation of the ABS shall keep correct and complete books and records of an account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its business meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and all other committee meetings. All books and records of the corporation may be inspected by any member, or her or his agent or attorney, for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

Bylaws

ARTICLE I. Membership Status and Dues Structure

- Section I. Regular, Associate, Student, and Life members may petition the Membership Committee for a change in status whenever such persons have met the qualifications of the category membership sought.
- Section II. Regular, Associate, and Student members shall pay an annual membership fee as determined by vote of the membership. Full Life Members have no annual membership fee requirements.

ARTICLE II. Elections

- Section I. Officers and At-Large Executive Committee members shall be elected for terms as specified in Article IV of the Constitution of the Association of Black Sociologists and shall assume office at the first Annual Convention following election. A minimum of sixty days shall be allowed for the entire voting process.
- a. At the first election, to insure continuity of operation of the Association, at-large Executive Committee members shall be elected to serve staggered terms.
 - b. The student at-large members shall be elected initially for a term of one year and thereafter for a term of one year.
 - c. Two at-large committee members shall initially be elected to serve terms of two and three years, and thereafter terms of two years.
- Section II. The National President, with the Nominations Committee, shall issue a Call for Nominations from the full membership no later than October 1 of the year preceding the election. These shall be screened by the Executive Committee as to their eligibility to hold office.
- The Executive Committee shall select at least two names for each elective office and place them on the ballot mailed to the electorate.
- Section III. When ballots are counted, the results shall be communicated to the membership by the Executive Officer. The ballots shall be retained by the Executive Officer for a period of one year.

ARTICLE III. Duties of the Officers

- Section I. The President of the Association of Black Sociologists shall plan an agenda for the meetings of the Executive Committee and for the business meetings for the ABS.
- She or he shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee and Co-Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee of the ABS and shall have the authority to appoint members to fill vacancies which may occur on any committee for the expiration of the designated term. She or he shall have the authority to appoint the chairs of the Standing Committees, as well as all Ad Hoc committees of the ABS. She or he shall be the chief spokesperson for the ABS on all public matters. She or he shall take leadership in the continued development of the Association and perform other duties at the request of the Executive Committee.
- The Secretary shall be the chief recording officer of the ABS.
- The Treasurer shall serve as the Co-Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee of the organization. The National President shall work with the Treasurer in preparing the annual budget. The Treasurer shall have

the major responsibility for maintaining a fiscal record for the ABS, a report of which must be presented at the Annual Convention of the ABS.

The National President, the Executive Officer, and the Treasurer shall have signature authority to disperse funds in payment of fiscal obligations incurred by the organization.

The Executive Officer of the Association of Black Sociologists shall be the chief administrative officer of the Association. She or he shall serve to implement the decisions reached by the Association and/or the Executive Committee, and she or he will be responsible for coordinating management functions as necessary to perform the ongoing operations of the Association. She or he will help facilitate communication among members of the ABS Executive Committee, take major responsibility for facilities selection for ABS conventions and meetings, initiate negotiations surrounding accommodations and travel packages for ABS conventions and meetings, and provide input and oversight for decisions that have a financial bearing on the Association. The Executive Officer will serve as ex-officio member on all Standing and Ad Hoc committees.

The National President-Elect shall serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee with primary responsibility for working with the National President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and other members of the Executive Committee in planning and arranging for the Annual Convention of the organization.

The Executive Committee shall be the chief policymaking body of the ABS. It shall establish guidelines for the operation and conduct of the affairs of the ABS and serve as an advisory body for the National President. It is also vested with the responsibility of interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws of the ABS. It shall be responsible for planning and conducting all national elections and reporting the results to the membership. It shall determine what, if any, association the ABS shall establish with other professional organization and societies. The Executive Committee shall communicate its actions to the full membership within sixty days following any of its meetings.

- Section II. The Standing Committees shall perform duties as designated by the Executive Committee. In addition,
- a. The Budget and Finance Committee shall be responsible for the preparation of the budget of the ABS and for remaining in close association with the Executive Committee on all budgetary matters.
 - b. The Membership Committee shall promote the development of the organization and serve as a classification committee for the membership.
 - c. The Nominations Committee shall be responsible for the nominations, balloting, and elections processes of the ABS.
 - d. The Program Committee shall plan the program of the national conventions.
 - e. The Publications Committee shall develop or supervise the development of whatever publications the ABS decides to undertake.
 - f. The Research Committee shall oversee all research undertakings performed in the name of the ABS and communicate the results to the membership and other groups as determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended or expanded by a majority affirmative vote of those voting on a referendum submitted by mail to the members of the ABS.