
CONSTITUTION

I. The name of this organization shall be the Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society.

The organization will serve to promote the well-being of the black community through active involvement of its members in programs which stimulate interest in the history, cultural heritage, and current situation of black people or programs directed toward improving the condition of the black community in ways consistent with the philosophy of the organization.

The philosophy of this organization shall be worked out by the members through study of black thought.

The awareness of black culture and current events from the perspective that SASS shall develop would enrich the entire Swarthmore community, although SASS shall primarily direct its efforts toward the black community of the college and surrounding area.

II. Membership

- a. Any black student attending Swarthmore College and who has attended at least 50% of the regularly scheduled general meetings for a given semester shall be a VOTING MEMBER and may vote on all proceedings of the general meeting and hold an elected or appointed office for that semester.
- b. Any black person may be a MEMBER of the group. MEMBERS may attend general meetings and serve on committees, but they may not vote. They do not have to attend the regular general meetings or pay dues, but they are welcome to do so.
- c. Dues are \$2.50 per semester, and it is expected that all voting members will pay dues promptly. The treasurer shall be responsible for arranging a payment plan of no more than five payments per semester.

III. Officers

- a. The organization shall be governed through a Steering Committee of five members.
- b. A treasurer shall be elected to maintain all financial records, including the collection of dues and disbursement of SASS funds.
- c. Two secretaries to the organization shall be elected. The recording secretary shall take and report on minutes of all general meetings and maintain records of information relevant to the group. The communications secretary shall assist the Steering Committee in handling correspondence and communications to and from the organization.
- d. All officers shall be elected for a term of one semester, but may serve consecutively for at most three semesters in any given office. Officers must maintain their status as voting members throughout their term of office.

IV. Steering Committee

- a. Five elected voting members shall constitute the Steering Committee. The chairman shall prepare the agenda for both the Steering Committee and general meeting and chair them. The secretary shall record all proceedings and decisions recommendations that are to be submitted at the general meeting, and after reporting on them to the group shall file them permanently with the recording secretary. The Steering Committee shall meet at least once a week. The chairman and secretary of the Steering Committee have only these special duties to the group and shall be chosen by the committee itself.
- b. The purpose and duties of this committee are:
 - to recommend policy and actions for approval by the general body.
 - to recommend for appointment standing committee chairman, subject to approval by SASS, and with them, appoint committee members giving consideration to personal preference.
 - to coordinate the activities of the entire organization and see that all divisions function properly.
 - to review and approve public statements and correspondence.
 - to make emergency decisions when the general body cannot be consulted, provided that the general body is informed of these decisions as soon as possible.
 - to be alert and responsive to any developments on campus relevant to the interests of the organization.
 - to review the budget allocations for the semester in conjunction with the treasurer.
- c. A quorum for meeting shall be four members. Within one week after their election, the Steering Committee should: appoint standing committee chairmen, establish a telephone tree for emergency communications, outline semester plans, and approve the dues payment schedule of the treasurer.

V. Meetings

- a. Regular: the general body shall meet bimonthly (the Steering Committee should schedule semester meetings at the beginning of the semester and notify the membership of the schedule.)
- b. Special: additional meetings may be called by the Steering Committee at any time or by written petition to the membership of any five voting members.
- c. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of the voting members with a majority of those present necessary to pass a proposal (a quorum is the number of people necessary to vote on a proposal).

VI. Standing Committees

- a. There shall be four standing committees. Committee membership shall be decided by the committee's chairman. The Steering Committee and the committee chairman should try to honor personal preferences where possible. Inactive committees are subject to reorganization by the Steering Committee.
- b. The STANDING COMMITTEES of SASS are:
 - UMOJA: responsible for initiating and coordinating activities and projects with the black community (including alumni - such as observance of National Black Holidays) and especially for uniting the black community at Swarthmore with SASS.

ADMISSIONS & ORIENTATION: shall develop plans for recruitment of new students and orientation of incoming students and develop an admissions policy for the organization. Where necessary these plans will be coordinated with those of the college.

CULTURAL INVOLVEMENT: shall stress physical and spiritual involvement in black culture by arranging cultural and social activities which appeal to the expressive and artistic nature of black people; e.g., parties, music, sports, dance.

EDUCATION: shall consist of three (3) related subcommittees:

1. Newsletter - to assemble, print, and distribute a periodic newsletter representative of various black philosophies and arts.
2. Program - to plan and run educational events and programs involving special talent; including speakers, artists, etc.; and to promote sponsorship of similar programs by the college.
3. Internal Education - to examine methods for working out a creative philosophy for the organization such as discussions, readings courses, etc. which develop the ideas of the membership.

c. the standing committees shall have regular meetings and are responsible to the steering committees and the general body for periodic progress reports.

VII. Elections

- a. only voting members are eligible to serve in elected or appointed positions and as officers and standing committee chairmen.
- b. the steering committee, treasurer, and secretaries of SASS shall be elected by the general body by secret ballot.
- c. the retiring steering committee shall call and conduct all general elections.
- d. one week prior to nominations for elections of officers, notice shall be given of such to all Swarthmore black students. Nominations shall be then made from the general meeting.
- e. elections for officers shall be held the day following the general nominating meetings. Any ballot containing more than five names for steering committee, and one for each other officer or the same name more than once shall be disqualified. A person may hold only one office.
- f. Elections for officers shall be scheduled as near the end of the semester as possible, and new officers shall begin to serve on the first day of the new semester.

VIII. Impeachment

- a. Any person serving in an elected or appointed position may be impeached.
- b. Charges for impeachment may be presented by any voting member at a general meeting or at a special meeting, as provided.
- c. The charges shall be considered for three days and then voted on by the voting membership.

- d. A two-thirds (2/3) vote is necessary for removal from office. An impeached person may not be an officer or standing committee chairman, until the next semester.
- e. A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE in the steering committee may be called for in special meeting by the petition of at least five voting members, who are responsible for presenting written charges at the proceedings.
- f. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of NO CONFIDENCE is necessary to remove the steering committee.
- g. If the steering committee is removed the communications secretary (who shall chair the proceedings) shall immediately initiate nominations and elections for a new steering committee.
- h. All members of the removed committee are eligible for immediate reelection.

IX. Amendments

Any part of this constitution may be amended any time that a majority (50% plus) of all voting members votes in favor of a proposed amendment, which has been submitted to the membership in writing.

This Constitution was adopted by SASS in March, 1969