

Calvin University Black Student Union

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Calvin University Black Student Union here after referred to as the BSU.

ARTICLE II – VISION

We, as members of the Black Student Union, desire to build unity among Black students at Calvin University by providing opportunities for Black students to explore, learn, and grow. Our mission is to take our charge as Calvin students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world. We seek to cultivate a sense of community, solidarity, and excellence through engagement in our community at Calvin University, the larger Grand Rapids area, and beyond.

ARTICLE III – STATEMENT

BSU is a student led organization that provides resources for students of African-descent and allies to close the educational gap on Calvin's campus as well as the Grand Rapids area. In order to achieve this goal, we unite and support Black students on campus. We aim to be a platform for other organizations and groups that serve black students and our student body as a whole. We host general assembly meetings, plan BSU sponsored events, and attend events on campus and in the community. Our goal is to celebrate Black excellence by supporting and promoting individual achievements while also educating about the contributions of different ethnic and cultural heritages. We spread awareness and actively fight against institutional and individual acts of racism.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section I: Requirements

Membership shall be open to any Calvin student who is of African descent and is interested in the purpose of the BSU. A membership can be obtained by completing an application. A member will be expected to attend at least four of the General Assembly meetings and four personal development events

throughout the academic year. The Executive Board has the right to determine an inactive/dormant member.

An inactive/dormant member will be any member who has not attended the required number of the BSU meetings. This person does not have right to vote or obtain privileges given to active BSU members.

Section II: Membership Standing

The standing of each member will be determined based on their attendance record for General Assembly meetings and personal development requirements. To be deemed a member in good standing for the purpose of voting in BSU elections and General Assembly decisions, each member must attend a minimum of four of the General Assembly meetings and four personal development activities during the current academic year.

Types of membership include active, dormant and inactive.

- A. Active members retain all rights promised to membership by the constitution.
- B. Dormant members are members who are in good standings with BSU but are unable to fulfill all the requirements of membership; therefore are not able to vote but can reactive membership at any time.
- C. Inactive members are members who have failed to meet membership requirements and are not in good standings with BSU. They must meet with the Executive board or with an advisor to reactivate membership.

The BSU Executive Officers reserve the right to grant or revoke any person the right to vote based on continual service or lack thereof throughout the year.

Section III: Membership

The following rights shall be granted to members of the BSU:

The right to vote in elections;

The right to membership perks, including, but not limited to discounted fees for events.

The right to access BSU merchandise.

Section V: Member Expectations

The expectations of all BSU members are as follows:

- To understand and promote the purpose of the BSU.
- To articulate, with the assistance of the BSU, matters of policy and general purposes.
- To make an effort to actively participate in all BSU endeavors.
- To network with other BSU members.
- To network with BSU alumni.
- To take advantage of the BSU resources aimed at personal, career, and community development.
- To foster a sense of community with neighboring Calvin and Grand Rapids area student groups.
- To help maintain the academic, cultural, social, economic, and political stability of the BSU both while enrolled as a Calvin undergraduate on the Grand Rapids campus and after becoming a Calvin graduate.

ARTICLE VI – ORGANIZATION

Section I: Executive Board

The Executive Board shall be composed of the Executive Officers (two Presidents, the Vice President of Communications, the Vice President of Administration, and the Treasurer.

The Executive Board shall meet at least once every week during the fall and spring semesters unless a different need is determined by the Co-Presidents.

The Leadership Council shall meet at least once a month with the Executive Board during the fall and spring semesters unless different need is determined by the Presidents.

All powers and duties not assigned to other committees or offices elsewhere in the Constitution or in the subsequent by-laws shall be vested in the Executive Officers. The Executive Officers shall reserve the right to veto and/or amend any decisions made by the standing committees. The Executive Officers shall assist the Co-Presidents in the execution of their duties, oversee the activities of the BSU and its affiliates,

and enforce the Constitution, by-laws, and decisions of the organizations. All Executive Officers shall cast one (1) vote and decisions will be made by “simple” majority vote.

All decisions of the Executive Board are subject to rejection, if duly moved and seconded by any General Body member in good standing and carried by a two-thirds majority vote in the General Body meeting following the decision.

Emergency General Body meetings may be called by the Presidents, or any member presenting a petition in written form, and it must be approved by one-third of the members in good standing or by vote of the Executive Officers.

Section II: Executive Board Responsibilities

President of Administration

- Co-Chair the Executive Board
- Lead the Black Student Union in achieving the objectives of this Constitution
- Administer & plan Executive Board and General Assembly Meetings
- Oversee all logistics of BSU events
- Coordinate Executive Board training
- Initiate and maintain contact with administrators and other necessary persons.
- Create yearly budget for BSU
- Keep the vision of BSU moving forward
- Serve as a voting member of the Executive Board and cast one (1) vote in all its decisions

President of Communications

- Co-Chair the Executive Board
- Lead the Black Student Union in achieving the objectives of this Constitution
- Shall be responsible for representing the BSU concerning all matters pertaining to the recruitment of new members
- The President shall oversee representation of the BSU in regards to all media communications and administrative representation unless another proxy is otherwise deemed
- Oversee Communication between BSU and all partnering organizations
- Keep the vision of BSU moving forward
- Serve as a voting member of the Executive Board and cast one (1) vote in all its decisions

Vice-President Administration

- Develop a report at the midpoint and end of each semester documenting changes in membership and outlining the committee's plan for recruiting new and maintaining current members
- Keep all files such as attendance and calendars
- Process applications for membership and executive leadership
- Assist President of Administration as appropriate and necessary
- Serve as a voting member of the Executive Board and cast one (1) vote in all its decisions

Vice-President Communications

- Shall be responsible for representing the BSU concerning all matters pertaining to business
- Shall be responsible for contacting and maintaining relations with Alumni
- Sends monthly emails to update BSU sponsors and partners
- Liaison between Executive Board and Leadership Council
- Assist President of Communications of any projects necessary
- Serve as a voting member of the Executive Board and cast one (1) vote in all its decisions

Treasurer

- Responsible for maintaining the records of the funds and expenditures of the BSU
- Prepare all financial documents of the BSU, and co-sign such documents with the President (and Advisor)
- Report the status of the BSU's finances to the Executive Board on a timely basis as specified by the Executive Board
- Serve as a voting member of the Executive Board and cast one (1) vote in all its decisions

Section III: Leadership Council

Programming Director.

- Shall serve as the chair of the Leadership Council and be responsible for administrating council meetings.
- Create and send monthly reports concerning Leadership Council to President of Administration.
- Collaborate with President of Administration to organize BSU events.
- Assisting the President of Administration in providing community service opportunities for members of the BSU

- Maintain a frequently updated master strategic planning document for all BSU events.
- The Programming Director shall report directly to the President of Administration and dispense his/her duties as deemed fit in accordance to the Constitution of the BSU.

Publicity and Marketing Director(s)

- Publicity and Marketing Director shall record, preserve, and maintain all photos and flyers of the BSU
- Shall be in charge of all social media accounts of the BSU and be in charge of creating and reviewing flyers for events.
- Responsible for creating and circulating a monthly newsletter which informs students about events and meetings within the Calvin Community
- Create and distribute flyers, posters, signs, etc. to inform students about BSU hosted events
- Report directly to the Vice-President of Communications with all finished projects before the release of any materials.

Multicultural Outreach Director(s)

- Multicultural Outreach Director Track shall report events on campus that might of interest to members of BSU.
- Ensure that the programming and activities serve to promote participation of all BSU members.
- Make a semesterly report regarding Calvin University's Black Student Unions diversity and inclusion.
- Report directly to the Vice-President of Communications and dispense his/her duties as deemed fit in accordance to the Constitution of the BSU.

Freshman Representative (s)

- The Freshman Representative shall serve as a liaison between the freshman General Body members and the Executive Board.
- Establish programming to address the needs and concerns of the freshmen General Body members.
- Report directly to the President of Communications and dispense his/her duties as deemed fit in accordance to the Constitution of the BSU.

Senior Advisor

- The Senior Advisor will be expected to graduate the spring semester of the upcoming academic year.

- Is required to have completed one full academic year as a member of Calvin University's Black Student Union.
- Partner with Vice-President of Communications and the Alumni Association in order to network with BSU Alumni.
- Report directly to the President of Communications and dispense his/her duties as deemed fit in accordance to the Constitution of the BSU.

Section IV: Line of Succession

In the event that either President leaves office or cannot resume their duties in the event of illness, the line of succession to the office of President will be as follows: 1) The matching Vice-President will succeed to the office of President; 2) the Vice President position will a vacant position unless emergency replacement deemed necessary by the Executive Board or Advisor

In the event that vacancies should occur in the offices below that of the President, the President shall nominate any Executive Board member or General Body member to fill the vacancy. Any nominee must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the existing voting members of the Executive Office.

Section V: Special Committees

The Presidents shall have the right to establish a special committee to address any concern he/she deems fit. At the first Executive Board meeting of the following academic year, the Executive Board shall vote to continue or abolish this committee. If the Executive Board fails to call the question, then the President shall administer this committee as he/she deems fit.

ARTICLE VII- VOTING PROCEDURES

Section I: Voting Procedures for Members of the Executive Board

Voting registration shall start halfway through the Spring semester. Any active BSU member who has completed one full academic year at Calvin University is eligible to apply for a position as a member of

the Executive Board. All applications must be vetted through BSU approved advisors and will be subject to disciplinary and academic background checks by such advisors. Approved applicants will be brought forward to all active members during General Assembly meetings and members will voice opinions during a silent elections. Once all feedback from the General Assemble has been processed, potential candidates will be voted on by present Executive Board members during Executive meetings.

Section II: Voting Eligibility for Elections

Any active BSU member in good standing will be allowed to vote in General Body elections.

Section III: Post Election

- A. Election results must be presented one week after General Assembly silent election.
- B. The offices elected in the Spring of the academic year will shadow their position during the remainder of the semester in order to gain insight and knowledge regarding the office they will fill during the following academic year.
- C. All Officers will be sworn in at the end of the semester and all former officers shall officially turn over all power to the newly elected

ARTICLE VIII – ADVISOR(S)

BSU will be required to have at least one active advisor who is a part of Calvin's University's CISD office. BSU is required to have monthly check-ins one each advisor(s).

It is recommend that BSU has at least two active advisors, one who is on staff at CISD and one that holds an academic role at Calvin University.

It is strongly recommended that the BSU Executive Leadership has one advisor at weekly meetings.

ARTICLE IX – IMPEACHMENT

Section I: Warning of Impeachment

Should any active Executive Board member of BSU miss more than one (1) consecutive meeting without the approval from active Board members, such member shall be under warning of impeachment and will be required to be reviewed by other members during Executive meetings. If a reasonable excuse is presented and approved by board members, the member under warning will be excused and may continue serving as an active Board member.

Should no reasonable excuse be presented or be approved by Board members, an emergency meeting with a least one BSU advisor must called and the case will be presented at full first by active Board members and then second by Member under impeachment warning. Advisor(s) shall hear all arguments and will have the power to make the final decision concerning impeachment

Section II: Removal from Office

If concerning activity should arise from an officer which makes them unfit to represent the BSU, a formal complaint may be made by an active member. All complaints will be processed by the Executive Board and shall be reviewed and voted on by Board (except for accused Board member). If a complaint involves two or more Officers or contains accusations of abuse such complaints must be brought to an advisor who will be responsible for processing the case.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Upon a petition of four members of the Executive Board or one-third of the membership in good standing, amendments to this constitution may be brought to the floor in a General Body meeting or Executive Board Meeting. Upon passage by two-thirds of the membership in good standing, either by ballot at the meeting or a subsequent one, the amendment is required to be adopted to Executive Board agenda. Executive Board is required to create a committee who shall review and revise such amendment and shall present revised amendment at the next General Assembly meeting. Upon passage by two-thirds of the membership in good standing the amendment shall be presented to BSU advisors who will read and review amendment and will decide if it gets passed.

ARTICLE XII – RATIFICATION

This constitution shall become effective immediately upon being approved by a two-thirds majority of the BSU members.