

BLACK STUDENT JOURNALISTS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY (NABJ-OSU) CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the National Association of Black Journalists at Ohio State, believing that students working toward careers in journalism and media at The Ohio State University should work together under the auspice of the NABJ in the education of its members with respect to the journalism field, as well as the pursuit of scholarship, internships and professional opportunities, do ordain and establish this constitution for the National Association of Black Journalists at Ohio State.

ARTICLE I

Name and Scope

Section I: The name of this organization shall be National Association of Black Journalists at The Ohio State University, also referred to as NABJ-OSU.

Section II: NABJ-OSU is a network of journalism majors, and other students who have an interest in journalism and media-related professions. NABJ-OSU meets to discuss topics relating to journalism as it pertains to the black professional experience, and to be an inward facing presence to the whole of the Ohio State community as a media organization that honors diversity and celebrates black excellence. NABJ-OSU strives to be an outward facing presence as a member of Region II in the national conference, furthermore gaining access to resources, opportunities, scholarships, and conventions, as well as networking with other national chapters.

Non Discrimination Policy

Section III: NABJ-OSU does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, NABJ-OSU expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here

<https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>.

If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleIX.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

ARTICLE II

Membership Qualifications and Categories of Membership

Section I: NABJ-OSU shall be composed of students attending The Ohio State University. Both undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to join so they choose. Members of NABJ-OSU should attend 75 percent of the meetings each semester to be in good standing with the organization, and report absences to the President, Vice President or Secretary. Membership in the student chapter of NABJ-OSU is open to any student interested in the organization. A student membership at the national level must be purchased for \$40, and can be made payable to the National Association of Black Journalists.

ARTICLE III

Methods of Electing Officers

Section I: Elections for NABJ-OSU E-board will take place towards the end of the spring semester.

Interested officers of NABJ-OSU executive board will nominate themselves via application. Candidates for election will be subject to a vote by the general assembly. Each nominee's goals and proposals outlined in their application will be shared with general members.

Section II: Elected officers will be notified via email of their application status. Candidates will then have 24 hours to respond in order to accept or reject their position as officers.

Section III: All executive board members must be paying student members of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Section IV: In the event a member of the e-board leaves abruptly or for any other circumstance, voluntary or otherwise, e-board will hold a special election within two weeks of their resignation, which will mirror the regular elections.

ARTICLE IV

Organization Leadership

Section I: Organization leaders represent the executive board and general membership and are elected or appointed from the ranks of the organization's voting membership. The executive board shall consist of the president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, marketing chair, and an advisor. Executive board members shall be selected by general assembly vote. Appointments shall be held at the end of each spring semester and last for the entirety of the year thereafter. If a member of the organization leadership becomes unable to fulfill their position, the current leadership shall hold a special election to replace them. The specific duties of each leadership duties are specified as follows:

Section II: The primary leader shall serve as the president of National Association of Black Journalists and shall be responsible for orchestrating organization meetings, events, as well as executive board

meetings. The president shall be in charge of registering and maintaining the student chapter as a national affiliate of the organization and through the university. Any major decision made regarding the organization or within the scope of the organization shall run through the president first before approval. The president shall also work with the treasurer to secure financial stability for organization efforts, trips, and engagements.

Section III: The secondary leader shall serve as the vice president of National Association of Black Journalists. The primary responsibility is to assist the president in planning and executing meetings for both the general body and the e-board, campus events, and other efforts that may be made through NABJ-OSU. The Vice President shall assume all authoritative responsibility over the organization if the president is removed or incapacitated for any reasons.

Section IV: The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing and for the accounting of all receipts and disbursements, assets and liabilities, and shall report to the president as well as the rest of the executive board, if necessary. They shall also spearhead any fundraising efforts with the support of the executive board and report an annual audit to the national organization.

Section V: The secretary shall be responsible for the organization's outside communications and taking notes for every meeting. The secretary shall be responsible for taking meeting attendance and logging the contact information of members. They will also be responsible for sending regular emails from the NABJ-OSU email account or their personal OSU account.

Section VI: The Marketing Chair will be responsible for running the social media accounts of NABJ-OSU and making accompanying flyers and graphics to advertise meetings and events. They will also do overall outreach and engagement for recruiting new members.

ARTICLE V

Methods of Removing Members and Executive Officers

Section I: An officer or member may be removed if found engaging in behavior detrimental to the advancement of the organization, the constitution or its by-laws, or violating the Code of Student Conduct. The officer or member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization's advisor.

Section II: In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g. while an investigation is pending), the executive board, in consultation with the advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

ARTICLE VI

Executive Committee

Section I: Members of the executive board shall maintain least a 2.5 GPA for the remainder of their term. In event that an executive member drops below a 2.5 GPA, the board will evaluate the proper plan of action.

Section II: There will be no more than six members on the executive board, including the five positions listed above. Should the executive board members seem fit to add another position, it is not necessary to amend the Constitution unless the board decides it should be cemented for the future of the organization.

Section III: The outlined positions of President, Vice President, and Treasure will attend training sessions held by the Ohio Union for every next term of office to remain eligible for funding and in good standing with the university.

ARTICLE VII

Advisor and Advising Criteria

Section I: Advisors of student organizations must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. Advisor must be a faculty member in the School of Communication, the Department African & African American or related field to the purpose of the organization.

Section II: Advisors should oversee, chaperon, and assist the executive board in activities of the organization when requested.

ARTICLE VIII

Organization Meetings

Section I: General meetings will be held every other week, with e-board meetings held every other week where the general body does not meet. Members will receive an email ahead of time for meeting location and time. Members will be notified if meetings are cancelled or relocated at least 24 hours ahead of time.

ARTICLE IX

Method of Amending Constitution

Section I: Amendments or changes to amendments shall be proposed by any active member or an executive board member and shall be voted on by the general members in order to reach the executive board for a final vote. Majority rules for both sets of voting. All E-Board members must be present in order to take place in the final vote.

ARTICLE X

Method of Dissolution of Organization

Section I: In the event that NABJ-OSU ceases to be an active student organization, remaining operating and programming funds shall be returned to the Ohio State University. All money raised by NABJ-OSU will be donated to other organizations of related causes at The Ohio State University. Dissolution of the organization shall be decided by the organization leadership. NABJ-OSU would need the unanimous decision from the executive board to discontinue the organization, as well as verbal consent from the organization advisor.