

Constitution

Active Black Students Association



Charter
Established 1985

Pellissippi State Community College
(Charter Revised December 7, 2009)

The Active Black Students Association of Pellissippi State Community College

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CONSTITUTION

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ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Active Black Students Association of Pellissippi State Community College, hereafter referred to as ABSA.

Section 2. The purpose of the ABSA shall be to promote minority participation in college programs, activities and policy initiatives. The ABSA will also serve as a conduit for matters of interest and concern to minority students for the betterment of the college and community.

ARTICLE II. REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall not be denied to any student at Pellissippi State Community College or its cohort programs on the basis of race, creed, religion, gender, political affiliation, sexual orientation or physical handicap.

Section 2. There shall be three types of membership in the organization: voting, associate and honorary.

Section 3. Voting membership is limited to enrolled students, faculty and staff at Pellissippi State Community College and its cohorts programs. Voting members shall be defined as those members who have attended at least 3 meetings and/or events per semester.

Section 4. Any member may be suspended or expelled from the organization for conduct obviously contrary to the Constitution of the organization or for conduct which impairs the rights of the members to enjoy the benefits of the organization. The offense must be in writing and submitted by a club member. After the offense is submitted to the organization, the offending member has the right to a 24 hour notice of a hearing before his/her peers at a regular meeting and the offending member may be suspended or expelled by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the voting members present. Suspended or expelled club members may exercise due process through the college's grievance procedure.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the organization shall be the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and other officers as necessary.

Section 2. Powers and Duties of Officers:

Clause 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization. He/She shall be the official spokesperson of the organization, representing the policies, views and opinions of the organization in its relations with the campus and community at large. He/She has further powers and duties as prescribed by the organization. The President or designee is responsible for submitting all documentation and reports as required by the Student Life Office.

Clause 2. The Vice President presides at the organization meetings in the absence of the Chair. He/She performs all legal duties assigned by the President. He/She notifies all members of the organization meetings.

Clause 3. The Treasurer handles all financial affairs and budgeting of the organization. He/She maintains club accounts in the organization's name which requires signature of the Treasurer, President, and Advisor. All disbursements for more than \$50 require a majority vote approval of the Executive Committee.

Clause 4. The Secretary takes minutes at all meetings of the organization, files minutes and submits required copies to all organization members. He/She is responsible for all organization correspondence and keeps copies of all correspondence on file. He/She acts as historian and maintains all records of the organization.

Clause 5. The officers and advisor shall be considered the Executive Committee and shall decide issues to be brought before the membership. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between its regular meetings, make recommendations to the membership, and perform other duties listed in the constitution. A simple majority shall decide any matters requiring a decision or financial expenditure by the Executive Committee. The advisor shall be considered a voting member of the Executive Committee.

Clause 6. Additional officers or committee chairs may be appointed and will not have Executive Committee status. (for example: Social Marketing, Membership, etc.)

Section 3. Officer qualifications:

Clause 1. Must be a regularly enrolled student in good standing at Pellissippi State Community College.

Clause 2. Must be a voting member of the organization for one semester.

Clause 3. Must carry a minimum 6 credit hours at Pellissippi State Community College and have a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5.

Section 4. Petition by 1/3 of the total number of members is cause for a recall election. The offense must be stated in writing and submitted by a member. After the offense is submitted to the organization, the offending officer has the right to a 48 hour notice of a hearing. A recall election will be conducted as a "Special Election". Recall requires an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the total voting membership.

Section 5. In the event an elected officer is unable to fulfill his/her term of office, there will be a "Special Election". Any eligible member, including those already holding office, can be nominated for a vacated officer position.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings are scheduled at least bi-monthly during the academic year.

Section 2. Special meetings are called by any elected officer or by 1/3 of the voting members of the organization. All members must be given a minimum of 48 hours (2 working days) prior to the Special Meeting time.

Section 3. Business cannot be conducted unless a quorum of the membership is present. Quorum for this organization is defined as 1/3 of the voting membership. Attendance may include meeting participation via web or telephone conferencing. Proxy votes by those not in attendance will be considered. Proxy votes must be given in writing to one of the Executive Committee members or Advisor.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Officers are elected once an academic year. Elections are held at the end of each academic year for the following year's term.

Section 2. At least one week's notice will be provided for any meeting at which an election is held.

ARTICLE VI. ADVISORS

Section 1. An individual employed on a full- time basis by Pellissippi State Community College will serve as the main advisor to this organization. Part-time PSCC employees may serve as co-advisor.

Section 2. The advisor(s) will serve a term of one academic year and is selected at the same time as the officers of the organization in the same voting method. In the event an advisor resigns after regular elections are held, the Executive Committee shall approve the new advisor/s.

Section 3. Petition by 1/3 of the total number of members is cause for advisor removal. The petition for removal of an advisor must be stated in writing and submitted by a member. After the petition is submitted to the executive board of officers, the advisor has the right to a 48 hour notice to respond or resign. A dismissal vote will be conducted as a "Special Election". Dismissal requires an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the total voting membership.

ARTICLE VII. DUES

Section 1. This organization can assess [levy] membership fees. Assessments are determined each academic year by a quorum of the membership at its regularly scheduled organization meeting held at the end of the spring semester.

Section 2. All money must be deposited into a PSCC club account through the Student Life Office. *The College does not recognize off-campus bank accounts for student organizations at Pellissippi State Community College.*

ARTICLE VIII. METHOD TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1. Proposed constitutional amendments or changes will be presented, in writing, to the organization one meeting before this amendment is voted on.

Section 2. Approval by 2/3 of the voting members present at a regular organization meeting will pass this proposed amendment. The amendment is immediately effective unless otherwise stipulated in the proposal.

Section 3. A copy of this constitution/bylaws and/or amendments to this constitution must be filed in the Student Life Office at Pellissippi State Community College.

ARTICLE IX. DISBURSAL OF ORGANIZATION ASSETS

Section 1. In the event the Active Black Students Association of Pellissippi State Community College should become defunct, all assets will be turned over to the Pellissippi Foundation Office and designated to a minority scholarship fund. In the event that the funds cannot be transferred to designated organization, funds will be transferred to the Pellissippi State Community College's Student Life Office to be used to promote student programming and leadership development on campus.

ARTICLE X. STATEMENT OF AFFILIATION (if applicable)

Section 1. This organization is not affiliated with any other organization.

Section 2. A copy of any constitution/by-laws of the Active Black Students Association must be filed in the Student Life Office at Pellissippi State Community College.

ARTICLE XI. RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. The Active Black Students Association of Pellissippi State Community College accepts "Roberts Rules of Order" (newly revised) as its Rules of Order.

Section 2. Any issue not directly written in this document will be resolved by referring to the Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XII. APPROVAL

Section 1. This constitution was approved on December 7, 2009. (*This must be approved by the entire organization, not just the executive officers and not by one or two organization members.*) This constitution and any changes thereafter; must be filed with the Student Life Office.