

**Albright College**  
**Society of Black Alumni (SOBA) Bylaws**

**Article I - Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Albright College Society of Black Alumni (hereinafter referred to as "SOBA").

**Article II - Purpose**

Section 1. The purpose of SOBA shall be to support programs and services promoting the individual, social, cultural, and academic well-being of Albright College's black students and alumni.

Section 2. Our goal is to support sustainable initiatives that advance the experience of black students, alumni, faculty, and staff via critical dialogue, mentoring, and networking.

Section 3. Furthermore, the society shall be a front line resource to assist and consciously advocate for a respectful and diverse campus environment and community.

**Article III - Members**

Section 1. All black alumni and associates of Albright College including parents, students, and friends shall be considered members.

Section 2. All SOBA Members are entitled to the following: to have a voice in the affairs of SOBA, to participate in programs and activities, to receive communications about SOBA and the College, and are eligible to serve as an officer of SOBA.

**Article IV - Governance**

Section 1. **Officers.** The officers of SOBA shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Student Representatives from the African American Society (AAS), Caribbean Culture Club (CCC), and African Diaspora. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws. The President, Vice President, and Secretary shall be nominated, or self-nominated, and approved by the membership. The term of office of the President, Vice President, and Secretary shall be two (2) years and each officer shall serve for a total of no more than two (2) terms. The Student Representatives shall be the current President or their designee.

Section 2. **Steering Committee.** The Steering Committee shall consist of no more than twenty-five (25) members.

Section 3. **Duties.**

- a. **President.** The duty of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the organization.

- b. **Vice President.** The duty of the Vice President shall be to take the place of the ex-officio President whenever they cannot attend to those duties and serve as a member of all standing and ad hoc committees.
- c. **Secretary.** The duty of the Secretary shall be to keep the minutes and attendance records of all the meetings of the organization and to attend to all correspondence.
- d. **Student Representative.** The duty of the Student Representative shall be to serve as a campus resource for the organization.
- e. **Steering Committee.** The duty of the Steering Committee is to assist with leadership and planning. Each member of the Steering Committee shall engage in the Albright Community in a meaningful way. This includes, but is not limited to, participating in on-campus events, either in-person or virtually, mentoring students, teaching, serving on advisory boards, sponsoring an event, etc.; and attend at least half of the SOBA meetings. Meetings can be attended either in-person or virtually.

Section 4. **Succession.** In the event that the sitting President cannot fulfill the duty of their position, the Steering Committee will vote to fill this position at the next SOBA meeting. Voting will be conducted by a secret ballot of all Steering Committee members present (in-person or virtually) provided that there is a quorum of Steering Committee members recognized (75% of the Steering Committee). A single candidate will be elected as an officer by a two-thirds majority of the quorum. If no candidate has obtained the necessary two-thirds majority of votes on the first ballot, a runoff ballot will be prepared with the candidates with the two (2) highest numbers of votes from the previous vote. Nominations will be at that meeting.

#### **Article V - Committees**

SOBA shall establish such standing and ad hoc committees as it deems appropriate to the discharge of its responsibilities. Each shall have a definite written Statement of Role and Responsibilities with rules of procedure and policy guidelines that shall be reviewed annually by the committee, and approved by SOBA. Ad hoc committees will be constituted only for the duration of their task and will be dissolved upon completion thereof at the direction of the officers.

#### **Article VI - Meetings**

Section 1. SOBA shall meet at least once per month. SOBA Members shall be notified of meetings, which shall include the agenda and material for discussion at the meeting. In the event that the meeting day must be changed because of an unanticipated conflict, the meeting may be rescheduled to another date by the officers, and notice shall be given to the members of SOBA.

Section 2. [Robert's Rules of Order](#) shall govern the proceedings.

#### **Article VII - Amendments**

Section 1. These bylaws may be changed or amended at any meeting of SOBA by a two-thirds vote of those present, provided notice of the substance of the proposed change or amendment

is sent to all SOBA members at least ten (10) days before the meeting. Said changes will go into effect immediately upon an affirmative vote.

Section 2. These bylaws shall be reviewed annually by the Steering Committee, which shall recommend any necessary changes to the officers.

Submitted: May 19, 2020

Adopted: June 1, 2020