

**Constitution for the National Association of Black Journalists**  
**University of Georgia Chapter**  
**Housed in the Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication**

We the members of the National Association of Black Journalists, believing that Black journalists nationwide should bind themselves together in an effort to increase the number of Black journalists in management positions, encouraging young blacks interested in pursuing a journalism career, monitoring and sensitizing media to institutional racism in its coverage and employment practices, while furthering and expanding knowledge and understanding of fair, accurate, and ethical journalism, so enact and establish this Constitution for the government of its members.

**Chapter 1**

*Article I: Name and Symbol*

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the University of Georgia Student Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists Inc.

Section 2: The symbol of the NABJ shall be the letters NABJ with upright pen on the left and a hanging microphone on the right.

*Article II: Title*

Section 1: Official titles throughout the Constitution may be indicated by abbreviations. The National Association of Black Journalists may forthwith be known as NABJ.

*Article III: Purpose*

Section 1: The purpose of NABJ shall be to bring about a union of Black journalists dedicated to truth an excellence in news and full equality in the industry in order:

- (a) To support the University of Georgia's Henry Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.
- (b) To express the need, interests, ideals, progresses, problems and goals of minority students enrolled in the college.
- (c) To establish productive lines of communication between minority students, faculty members, administrators and others students.
- (d) To expand the media's coverage and balanced reporting of Black communities and Black experiences.
- (e) To be an exemplary group of professionals that honors excellence and outstanding achievement among Black journalists.
- (f) To encourage journalism schools to promote and tenure Black professors.
- (g) To work with high school students to identify future Black journalists.

Section 2: NABJ shall, after membership approval, take stands and position on issues of social concern. Also, upon membership approval, NABJ may defend its members' related grievances and concerns.

*Article IV: Amendments*

Section 1: Amendments to the constitution can be made only after the proposed change has been brought to the attention of the executive board and general body. It must then be approved by a 2/3 majority of each group, with the change implemented immediately after the amendment has been approved.

*Article V: Membership*

Section 1: The organization shall be composed of duly enrolled students in journalism, pre-journalism, and persons of other majors with an active interest in journalism.

Section 2: NABJ upholds the University of Georgia policies as related to the commitment of the concepts of affirmative action and equal opportunity.

(a) No person should be denied membership in NABJ due to factors of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, or disability.

(b) Each member must maintain a level of respect and fundamental fairness as it relates to fellow members or persons interested in NABJ activities.

*Article VI: Non-discrimination Clause*

(a) Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students without regard to age, ethnicity, gender, disability, color, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. *However*, Religious student organizations will not be denied registration solely because they limit membership or leadership positions to students who share the same religious beliefs.

## **Chapter 2**

*Article I: Officers of the Organization (the President and Vice President **MUST** be members of the national organization in addition to the student chapter).*

Section 1: The officers of this organization shall be:

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Treasurer
- (e) Internal Affairs chair (up to 2)
- (f) Historian
- (g) Public Relations Chair (up to 2)
- (h) Membership Relations Chair (up to 2)

Section 2: The Executive Council will consist of the officers of the association.

Section 3: The duties of the Executive Council shall be:

- (a) To prepare and submit the annual budget, which shall be subject to the approval of the membership.
- (b) To prepare the agenda before each meeting.
- (c) To interpret the Constitution.
- (d) To conduct the affairs of the association in the intervals between meetings.
- (e) To authorize non-budgeted expenditures of up to \$25 and make recommendations to the membership for expenditures of \$25 or more.
- (f) To call special meetings as herein provided for.

(g) If any officer of the Executive Council is unable to perform the specified duties, the adviser and the Executive Council reserves the right to bring a motion of impeachment to the floor of an NABJ General Body Meeting.

Section 4: The President shall:

- (a) Serve as chairperson of the Executive Council.
- (b) Preside over the meeting of the association.
- (c) Appoint special committees and define their duties
- (d) Act as representative to the Student Activities Committee.
- (e) Appoint vacant elected positions as needed.
- (f) Serve as the liaison between the chairperson of his or her respective committee.

Section 5: The Vice President shall:

- (a) Serve in absence of the President.
- (b) Coordinate the work of standing committees
- (c) Serve as the liaison between the chairperson of his or her respective committee.
- (d) Be responsible for reserving a room to hold all meetings, obtaining the key, having the room open in sufficient time for the meeting and locking the room following the meetings.

Section 6: The Secretary shall:

- (a) Keep records of the association, exclusive to the Treasurer's reports.
- (b) Record the minutes of all meetings.
- (c) Post the minutes of all meetings on the NABJ list serve.
- (d) Serve as the liaison between the chairperson of his or her respective committee.
- (e) Contact all members about meetings.
- (f) Create meeting agendas.
- (g) Operate the organization listserv.

Section 7: The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Report at each regular meeting the accounting and disbursement of funds of the association to the membership.
- (b) Receive all fees, funds and donations, all of which are to be deposited in the association account.
- (c) Maintain records of all financial transactions.
- (d) Pay out all disbursements on authority of one of the following:
  - a. Expenditure allowed in budget
  - b. Expenditure approved by the Executive Council
  - c. Expenditure approved by the membership
- (e) Serve as the liaison between the chairperson of his or her respective committee.
- (f) Report to the Vice President, President and Faculty Advisor on a regular basis a list of members who have paid dues.
- (g) Sign all checks with faculty advisor or president as co-signer and the knowledge of the advisor.
- (h) Delegate tasks to Executive Council members for audit report.

Section 8: The Internal Affairs Chair shall:

- (a) Be knowledgeable of the history of NABJ and the history of the UGA Student Chapter.
- (b) Coordinate NABJ displays including student organization fairs as well as the NABJ board in the Journalism building.
- (c) Publish and solicit membership participation in the production of the NABJ newsletter.
- (d) Serve as the liaison between the chairperson of his or her respective committee.
- (e) Coordinate internal programs.
- (f) Submit updates to secretary.
- (g) Conduct committee meetings before executive and general body meetings.

Section 9: The Membership Relations Chair shall:

- (a) Conduct affairs pertaining to the student chapter including, but not limited to:
  - a. Visitors and speakers
  - b. Trips to Cedar Shoals High School, one of the magnet high schools for the Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication
  - c. Contact of outside organizations and individuals
- (b) Coordinate communication with other chapters.
- (c) Arrange information for meeting agendas to report to the secretary.
- (d) Serve as a liaison between the executive board and general body members and will subsequently report to the President.

Section 10: The Public Relations Chair shall:

- (a) Be the photographer for all NABJ special events and activities.
- (b) Reside over the website and podcast productions for the chapter
- (c) Make and distribute flyers and posters on/off campus for events and programs

Section 11: The Historian shall:

- (a) Be responsible for proper website maintenance
- (b) Maintain records of NABJ events, including but not limited to photos, videos and event attendance

*Article II: The Faculty Advisor*

Section 1.

- (a) The newly elected Executive Council shall submit nominations for the position of faculty adviser and notify nominees before the election.
- (b) The members shall vote on the nominations at the next regular meeting of the organization.
- (c) The term of faculty advisor shall be from the time of his or her election until the next spring election.

Section 2. The advisor shall be:

- (a) To insure that the chapter activities are consistent with the University, College of Journalism & Mass Communication, and NABJ guidelines and standards.
- (b) To serve as co-signer of disbursements in the absence of the President or Treasurer.
- (c) To sign Student Affairs allocation requisitions for all requests approved by the Executive Council and/or the membership and that are consistent with University regulations.

*Article III: Membership Requirements*

Section 1: A member is expected to pay dues when stipulated.

Section 2: For non-payment of dues, a person cannot be listed as a member, vote or hold office. In addition, the person will be assessed an additional fee for the annual banquet and will not receive any financial assistance for trips and other special activities.

*Article IV: Standing Committees*

Section 1: The association is to consist of the following standing committees:

- (a) Internal Affairs
- (b) Public Relations
- (d) Membership Relations

Section 2: Each committee is to derive means for effectuating proposed programs and activities.

Section 3: All proposed programs and activities are subject to approval of the membership.

Section 4: The president of association may also appoint special committees.

Section 5: All standing committees and special committees terminate at the end of spring semester.

*Article V: Meetings*

Section 1: Regular meetings are to be held during the academic year.

Section 2: Executive meetings will be held every other week.

Section 3: Special meetings may be called in the following manner:

- (a) by a quorum of the Executive Council
- (b) any member who petitions the Executive Council and receives the approval of a quorum of the Council.

Section 4: An Executive Council quorum is to consist of a majority of the officers.

Section 5: Executive Council meetings are to be called by the President.

Section 6: A quorum for a regular or special meeting of the Association shall consist of a majority of those members who are in attendance.

*Article VI: Election Procedure*

Section 1: The Election Committee shall consist of five association members, who will not run for office and who will be responsible for conducting the election officers.

Section 2: Any member of the Association may nominate candidates for any office.

Section 3: The annual election of officers shall be held during spring semester.

Section 4: Members of the Election Committee shall receive nominations after a regular body meeting and shall ascertain the willingness of those persons nominated to be a candidate for the office(s) specified.

Section 5: The Election Committee shall prepare ballots, which will be used during the election, count the number of votes for each candidate during the election and decide who received the majority vote.

Section 6: In the event of a tie, a run-off may occur. Should a second tie result, the advisor must vote.

Section 7: If, during the year, an office other than President becomes vacant, the President shall appoint a member to fill the position temporarily.

*Article VII: Impeachment*

Section 1: Any member of NABJ executive board may be dismissed if he or she:

- (a) Fails to fulfill the responsibilities of his or her position.
- (b) Has at least 3 consecutive absences, excused and unexcused, from general and executive body meetings per semester.
- (c) Has at least 2 consecutive absences from major NABJ events.

Section 2: In the event that an executive member gives reason for dismissal, the following steps must be taken:

- (a) The NABJ advisor is notified and gives the member a warning.
- (b) If his or her actions do not improve, then the executive body votes to dismiss. The majority wins. The advisor may vote in the event of a tie.

*This is the end of the University of Georgia's chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists' Constitution.*