



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS



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CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

The National Society of Black Engineers National Constitution describes the manner in which the national organization shall be governed and structured. The NSBE Chapter Constitution document shall serve as a governing document for University of Rhode Island Chapter and not supersede or take authority in matters where working rules of NSBE sub bodies do not exist or are in conflict. As such, all working rules of NSBE Chapters shall comply, and be consistent with the National Constitution.

PREAMBLE

The National Society of Black Engineers, as a national student and professional based organization, does hereby dedicate itself to the development of intensive programs for increasing Black and other ethnic minority participation in the fields of engineering and engineering technology. These programs will be initiated both within and outside the university community and will serve to strengthen relations between professional industry and the black community. Members of this organization are encouraged to join and participate in their individual professional societies. This organization will endeavor to provide general counseling to all members.

ARTICLE I –NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. Chapter Name

The name of this organization shall be the University of Rhode Island Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (URI NSBE).

Section 2. Objectives

- A.** The objectives of this organization shall coincide with those of the National Society of Black Engineers, which is “to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community”.
- B.** The objectives shall include programs that serve to stimulate and develop student interest in engineering; to strive to promote participation at all levels of responsibility in the field of engineering by the black communities; and to endeavor in the advancement of black professional engineers within the individual engineering disciplines.



ARTICLE II –CHAPTER GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Governing Laws

- A.** This organization shall be governed by the Constitution, Bylaws and all amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization.
- B.** The Constitution and the Bylaws of this organization shall be within the boundaries of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules for the Government of Chapters of the National Society.

Section 2. Final Approach

- A.** The Constitution, Bylaws and all amendments to such shall be subject to approval by the Chapter with final approval by the Executive board of the National Society.
- B.** The laws that govern this Chapter shall be in effect only after approval from the Executive Board of the National Society has been granted.
- C.** No laws of this Chapter shall be retroactive.

ARTICLE III –MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership

- A.** Membership and participation in this organization shall be free from discrimination of the basis of sex, race, religion, ethnic group or national origin.
- B.** Membership shall require that the proper dues have been paid to both the National Society and this Chapter.
- C.** Membership in this Chapter shall be designated as Affiliate Member, Member, or Honorary Member.
- D.** The definition of each type of membership shall be defined as stated in the National Constitution and Bylaws.



Section 2. Voting

- A. A voting member shall be defined as a member enrolled as a student or affiliate member who is a **current paid member** of the National Society of Black Engineers both nationally and within the Chapter.
- B. Each Member and Affiliate Member in good standing is entitled one vote at all meetings.
- C. All Honorary Members shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings, except where otherwise noted in this document.
- D. A majority of voting members present shall be necessary for any business to take place except where noted in this document.
- E. Voting quorum shall be defined as two thirds of the Chapter's eligible voting members.

Section 3. Dues

- A. All members of this organization shall pay proper dues to the National Society and this Chapter.
- B. Chapter membership fees shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Committee and can only be changed by a two-thirds vote of the chapter.
- C. Honorary Members shall be exempt from Chapter dues.
- D. National Society dues and chapter dues for the year shall be paid to the treasurer prior to the deadline set by the Regional Executive Board, and the National Society.
- E. A plan of payment can be made with the treasurer concerning payment of Chapter dues prior to the third regular meeting of each quarter concerning that quarter's dues.

ARTICLE IV- MEETINGS

Section 1. First Meeting

The first regular meeting date of the next academic year shall be decided at the last meeting of the present academic year.

Section 2. Regularity

- A. Regular meetings shall take place no more than two weeks apart with the day and time determined by a three-fourths vote of the members present at the first meeting of the academic year.
- B. The President may call an unscheduled meeting when necessary provided that every member receives a notification at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.



ARTICLE V -OFFICERS

Section 1. Positions

- A. The elected officers of the Chapter shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Senator, Parliamentarian, Programs Chair and any other officers the chapter deems necessary.
- B. The Appointed officers of the Chapter shall be the Academic Excellence, Alumni Extension Chair, Telecommunications Chair, Membership Chair, PCI Chair, and TORCH Chair.
- C. The chapter shall have a minimum of one advisor responsible for informing other faculty of the activities of this chapter.
- D. No person who resigns from his position shall be allowed to return to that position during the same academic year.
- E. The chapter Officers must show commitment to serving the organization from a place of passion, determination to excel in their appointed position and be willing to pass that fire on to the next generation. Officers must also have the willingness to learn and grow and represent URI NSBE as excellent leaders, individuals, and community members.
- F. The Admin Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Programs Chair) must have at least a 3.0 GPA, and an engineering major. President must also be of African-American descent.

Section 2. Elected Officers Duties

- A. President
 - 1. Shall preside over all meetings of this chapter and provide an agenda for each member at each regular meeting.
 - 2. Shall serve as representative of this chapter.
 - 3. Shall appoint and remove all chairpersons and members of all committees, except where otherwise provided for in this document, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
 - 4. Shall be responsible or designate someone to be responsible for reserving a place for each regular meeting during the academic year.
 - 5. Shall keep mission statement in consideration and always implement it as an incentive.
 - 6. Shall stay in tune with Regional Executive Board, and the National Society initiatives.



B. Vice President

1. Shall preside in the absence or the inability of the President.
2. Shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President.
3. If the office of the President becomes vacant for any reason during his elected term, the Vice President shall become the President until the President is able to return to his position or the term expires; thereby, creating a vacancy of Vice President.

C. Secretary

1. Shall keep accurate minutes of each meeting.
2. Shall keep an accurate record of membership and attendance at Chapter meetings.
3. Shall forward a Chapter Monthly Report to the Executive Board of the National Society before the 5th, of each month, summarizing the activities of the Chapter during the month and listing the elected officers.
4. Shall keep all official records of this chapter except for those herein that the custody and control of shall be that of another office.

D. Treasurer

1. Shall keep an accurate account of the Chapter's funds.
2. Shall maintain a membership roll and collect all dues of the Chapter members.
3. Shall forward all National Society dues of the Chapter members.
4. Shall submit an annual report to the Executive Board of the National Society before February 1st of each year, giving a complete accounting of the Chapter's finances and reporting on such other matters as the Executive Board may require.
5. Shall be responsible for obtaining and/or maintaining a bank account in the name of this Chapter.
6. All monies received by the Treasurer shall be deposited in the Chapter's bank account, within five business days after such receipt, by the Treasurer.

E. Senators

1. Shall ensure that the chapter votes are cast during Regional and National Business.
2. Shall ensure that Parliamentary Procedure is observed and executed properly.

Section 3. Appointed Officers Duties

A. Programs Chair

1. Shall develop new Chapter Programs and Events.
2. Shall ensure that Parliamentary Procedure is observed and executed properly.



B. Academic Excellence

1. Shall meet with General Body member and check it regarding grades and performance.
2. Shall assist the PCI Chair in making Academic related workshops.
3. Shall be responsible for producing and distributing information pertaining to Academic Excellence Programs.
4. Shall be responsible for implementation of Academic Excellence Programs and Awards.
5. Shall be in charge of maintaining and addressing the Academic Excellence concerns of the regional membership.

C. Alumni Extension Chair

1. Shall coordinate with the Admin Board and oversee all activates of Chapter Alumni Extension
2. Shall ensure Alumni Extension Activities are consistent with the approved Alumni Interface Guidelines, Alumni Operating Guidelines, National directives, and NSBE Constitution.

D. Telecommunication Chair

1. Shall develop and update the URI Chapter homepage and brand on a periodic basis.
2. Shall ensure that the Chapter homepages are linked to the homepage of the National Society.
3. Shall perform duties as designated by the President.

E. Membership Chair

1. Shall meet with General Body members and relay general praises and complaints.
2. Shall distribute information regarding the membership process to new members.
3. Shall develop retention plans and events for membership.

F. Pre-College Initiative Chair

1. Shall assist pre-college students by providing tutoring, counseling and other supportive services.
2. Shall develop PCI programs and proposals
3. Shall evaluate on an annual basis the effectiveness of the various PCI programs.

G. TORCH Chair

1. Shall perform duties as designated by the President.
2. Shall bring TORCH incentives from the Regional level to the Chapter Level.
3. Shall have monthly TORCH opportunity for membership.



Section 4. Elected Officers Requirements

- A.** Only Paid National and Chapter Members can hold elected positions in the Chapter.
- B.** Affiliate and Honorary members cannot hold elected positions in the Chapter.

Section 5. Nominations and Elections

- A.** No later than the second regular meeting of the Spring semester, a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Chapter President. This committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least two other members.
- B.** The nomination committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each elected position of the Chapter. The nominating committee shall report these nominees to the Chapter before the first regular meeting in March.
- C.** Elections shall take place at the first regular meeting in April, for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Senator, and Program Chair.
- D.** The Nominations Committee shall present a slate containing the names of all the nominees they have for each elected position to each voting member on the day of the elections.
- E.** The newly elected officers shall assume their positions at the third meeting in May and shall serve a term of one academic year.
- F.** An absolute majority vote of the voting members present on Election Day shall be necessary for a person to be elected to an elected position.
- G.** If any elected office becomes vacant, the office shall be filled by a simple majority vote at a meeting designated by the President.



ARTICLE VI -COMMITTEES

Section 1. Executive

- A. The Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and of all other committee chairpersons. The President shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee.
- B. The Committee shall perform all duties assigned to it by this document.
- C. Officers appointed by the Committee shall serve for the duration of that term, until the return of the elected officer, or until further action by the Committee.

Section 2. Constitution

- A. The Senator shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee.
- B. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Chapter with respect to all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws that may properly be referred to it for consideration.
- C. The Committee reserves the right to make changes for the clarity of the Constitution.

Section 3. Fundraising

- A. The Treasurer shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee.
- B. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Chapter with respect to which activities to plan for fundraising.

Section 4. Communications

- A. The Secretary shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee.
- B. The Committee shall be responsible for submitting all articles for publication in any printed news source that may occur from time to time.
- C. The Committee shall be responsible for informing members of any special meetings that may occur from time to time, by means of phone or letter.
- D. The Committee shall post announcements containing the time, place, and date of all regular meetings at least two workdays prior to the meeting.



Section 5. Nominations

- A. The Committee shall be responsible for making nominations for all elected positions.
- B. The Committee shall set the criteria that a person must meet to run for any elected position. The criteria shall be required to be passed by the Executive Committee.
- C. The names of all persons wishing to run for an office shall be turned in to the Committee.

ARTICLE VII -TERMINATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1. Impeachment of Officers

- A. Any board member of the University of Rhode Island Chapter may be impeached and removed from their position in either of the following ways:
 - 1. A majority vote of the Chapter members; or
 - 2. A two-thirds vote of the Chapter Executive Board, not including the officer upon whom the charges have been brought.
- B. If a member feels that an officer is not fulfilling his/her duties, s/he shall, in writing, submit a request for impeachment to the President; however, if the officer in question is the President, the request shall be submitted to the Chapter Advisor.
- C. Impeachment proceedings shall be called by the President, unless the officer in question is the President, in which case the Chapter Advisor shall call the impeachment proceedings.
- D. An officer shall be required to be in good academic standing with the College or they will be subject to impeachment.
- E. The Chapter Advisor has the right to impeach any Executive Board member at any moment



ARTICLE VIII -RATIFICATION, AMENDMENTS, EXCEPTIONS

Section 1. Ratification

A simple majority vote of the chapter members shall be necessary for ratification and establishment of this Constitution.

Section 2. Amendment Proposals

- A. All proposed amendments to the Chapter's Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Constitution Committee not less than two meetings before Chapter consideration.
- B. The Chairperson of the Constitution shall distribute copies of all amendments to each member not less than one meeting prior to the meeting in which the proposed amendment is to be considered.
- C. Adoption of an amendment to the Chapter Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of the Chapter membership provided there are at least nine members present at the meeting when it is considered.
- D. All amendment adoptions shall take place at regular Chapter meetings.

Section 3. Exceptions

- A. In matters that are expedient, ratification by a simple majority vote shall provide exception to the rules set down by this Constitution, provided there are at least ten members present at the meeting.
- B. All matters of exceptions to this Constitution shall be presented to the Constitution Committee by the next meeting, by the presiding officer at the meeting at which it was made, for possible adoption to the Constitution.
- C. All exceptions made shall be subject to annulment at the next regular meeting of the Chapter after the meeting at which the exception was made.