

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS OF
THE HAROLD A. FRANKLIN SOCIETY

PREAMBLE

Seeking the need for social and educational reform for underrepresented students at Auburn University, in Spring 2008 the Auburn University chapter of the Harold A. Franklin Society was formed.

In 1964, Harold A. Franklin was admitted to Auburn University as the institution's first African-American student. Although obstacles of the era prevented Dr. Franklin from completing his studies at Auburn University, he went on to pursue a renowned career in Higher Education at many institutions throughout the southeast. Dr. Franklin's courage, perseverance, and achievements were acknowledged with the awarding of his Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Auburn University in the 2001 Spring commencement ceremony.

Therein, the development of this organization is in recognition of the achievements of Dr. Franklin and all underrepresented students who have exemplified leadership, academic excellence, and have made significant contributions to the advancement of Auburn University.

ARTICLE I

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be "The Harold A. Franklin Society": also referred to as "HAFS", "The Franklin Society", or "The Brotherhood".

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The purpose of the Franklin Society is to enhance the academic, social, and professional development of underrepresented Auburn University students, abiding by its motto of "*Guidance through unity*".

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be restricted to regularly enrolled, at Auburn University students, faculty, and staff. No one who meets these requirements may be denied membership on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, color, age, disability, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Section 2. Membership of the Franklin Society shall consist of all past and present officers, all inductees (honorary or otherwise), all past and present advisors and co-advisors, all past and present alumni chapter members, and all present undergraduate members with current status.

Section 3. Once having been inducted or having served as an advisor, co-advisor, officer, or executive council committee chair, an individual shall be recognized as a permanent member of the Harold A. Franklin Society for life.

Section 4. Undergraduate members shall be admitted after having been selected by the incumbent cabinet. New members shall assume their status in the brotherhood after publicly repeating the creed of the Harold A. Franklin Society.

Section 5. All members must be a registered voter, if of age. Voter registration material shall be provided to all applicants for membership.

Section 6. In order to maintain active member status, all members must participate in an approved community service project each semester, attend at least three meetings per semester, and pay dues as determined by the cabinet.

ARTICLE IV

FRANKLIN SOCIETY VOLUNTEER NETWORK

- Section 1. Those who wish to participate and volunteer in Franklin Society events, activities, and initiatives are encouraged to do so, even if they have no recognized membership status.
- Section 2. Their participation in these activities and attendance at meetings shall constitute their membership in the Harold A. Franklin Society Volunteer Network.

ARTICLE V

QUALIFICATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Section 1. Officers shall be a President, Vice-President, Chief of Staff, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2. These officers shall form the governing body of The Franklin Society, hereafter referred to as "The Cabinet".
- Section 3. Franklin Society officers must be currently enrolled at Auburn University, and be students in good academic standing. Officers must not be on academic or social probation. Officers must not be newly assimilated members, unless there is a shortage of qualified candidates.
- Section 4. Officer elections shall be held during the month of April during the Spring Semester. New officers shall take office at the end of the Spring Semester of their election, and their term shall expire at the end of the Spring Semester of the next year.
- Section 5. The election shall be done by secret ballot by Franklin Society members. A majority vote of members is required.
- Section 6. Each officer shall serve a maximum of one term in any given position, unless there is a shortage of candidates.

ARTICLE VI

THE CABINET

- Section 1. The Cabinet shall consist of The President, Vice-President, Chief Of Staff, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Section 2. The Cabinet shall meet no less than twice a month.
- Section 3. The Cabinet shall have the following duties:
 - A. To govern activities of The Franklin Society.
 - B. To formulate policy of the organization between regular meetings and in case of emergencies, subject to approval of the membership.
 - C. To execute policies determined by the general membership.
 - D. Administer programs of The Franklin Society through delegation to the Executive Council.
- Section 4. All cabinet members must perform delegated duties within 48 hours of assignment.

ARTICLE VII

INDIVIDUAL DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

- Section 1. President
- A. Preside over all meetings (unless otherwise provided for in the constitution)
 - B. Call special meetings.
 - C. Carry out the provisions of the constitution.
 - D. Appoint Cabinet positions in the event of a vacancy.
 - E. Appoint committee chairpersons if the Executive Council is unable to do so.
 - F. Oversee all committee activities
 - G. Correspond with Advisor and Co-Advisor, no less than twice a month
- Section 2. Vice-President
- A. Assume the duties of The President in his/her absence.
 - B. Perform any duties delegated by The President.
 - C. Attend all meetings (*Unless with a valid excuse*).
 - D. Oversee the ratification of the constitution to keep it current with organizational practice and policies.
 - E. Report results of General Meetings at Cabinet Meetings
 - F. Correspond with Advisor and Co-Advisor in the absence of The President.
 - G. Support The President in all requests consistent with The Constitution of The Franklin Society.
- Section 3. Chief Of Staff
- A. Oversee all affairs of the Executive Council
 - B. Preside over all meetings of the Executive Council
 - C. Report affairs of the Executive Council to The President at Cabinet Meetings
 - D. Correspond with the university to reserve rooms and space for Franklin Society events. Keep a current record of all reservations under the name of The Franklin Society and ensure no reservations are made and unused.
 - E. Support The President in all requests consistent with The Constitution of The Franklin Society.
- Section 4. Secretary
- A. Record and keep accurate minutes of all meetings.
 - B. Disseminate minutes to meeting attendees via email after cabinet and member meetings.
 - C. Provide Advisor and Co-Advisor with minutes of every Cabinet meeting within 48 hours
 - D. Distribute agenda for all meetings.
 - E. Maintain e-mail listserv / electronic newsletter.
 - F. Distribute updates and information through electronic media (i.e. e-mail listserv, Facebook group, etc.)
 - G. Assist The Chief Of Staff at Executive Council meetings.
 - H. Support The President in all requests consistent with The Constitution of The Franklin Society.

- Section 5. Treasurer
 - A. Keep an up to date record of The Franklin Society's bank account(s).
 - B. Keep an up to date record of The Franklin Society's student organization account(s).
 - C. Collect all Franklin Society dues.
 - D. Collect donations from donors.
 - E. Collect payments for memorabilia sales and all other activities.
 - F. Write receipts to record all financial transactions.
 - G. Deposit all Franklin Society funds within 48 hours of receipt.
 - H. Make financial reports monthly at Cabinet meetings.
 - I. Support The President in all requests consistent with The Constitution of The Franklin Society.

ARTICLE VIII

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Section 1. The Executive Council shall consist of all Franklin Society members with current status that are not currently serving on cabinet.
- Section 2. The Executive Council shall be divided into three standing committees; Academic Development, Social Development and Professional Development.
- Section 3. Each committee shall consist of Franklin Society members and be headed by a committee chairman.
- Section 4. A committee chairman must be elected through secret ballot by a majority vote of the committee to which he belongs. In the absence of candidates, The President shall appoint a chairman to each committee.
- Section 5. A committee chairman may not chair more than one committee per term.
- Section 6. The term for committee chairs begins in January and ends in December of the same year. There shall be no term limits imposed upon committee chairs.
- Section 7. A member shall be permitted to serve on more than one committee, provided that he is able to fully complete his obligations for each committee in which he serves.
- Section 8. For The Social Committee, there shall be, in addition to the chairman, a Vice-Chairman for Events, a Vice-Chairman for Publicity, and a Vice-Chairman for Community Service. Each vice chairman shall work with the committee to the advancement of his specific area and report to the committee Chairman.

ARTICLE IX

DUTIES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Section 1. Academic Development
 - A. Coordinate with existing programs and create new initiatives (when necessary) to increase the black male retention rate.
 - B. Develop and Administer an endowed, merit-based scholarship award to help relieve the financial burden on Auburn students.
 - C. Provide and maintain a database of readily-available academic assistance resources on campus.
 - D. Coordinate academic events with other organizations whenever possible (e.g., study nights, tutoring sessions, etc.)
- Section 2. Social Development
 - A. Coordinate with other organizations to create social events in the spirit of the organization.
 - B. Actively seek publicity to promote the organization on campus and in the community.
 - C. Funnel HAFS members into existing approved community service initiatives and oversee their participation.
- Section 3. Professional Development
 - A. Actively seek ways to enhance the leadership skills of HAFS members.
 - B. Coordinate with existing programs, organizations, and departments to provide activities, seminars, workshops, and events to nurture the professional development of HAFS members and Auburn University students.
 - C. Actively seek out keynote speakers for Franklin Society events that can inspire HAFS members and Auburn University students to a higher level of Professionalism.

ARTICLE X

IMPEACHMENT/REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Section 1. All elected officers and members may be subjected to impeachment and removal by a two-thirds majority vote of the total membership.
- Section 2. Grounds for impeachment are negligence and any form of misconduct which is damaging to the society. An officer/member may be impeached/removed only under the following conditions: there must be a quorum present during impeachment/removal; two-thirds of the membership must vote; prior to impeachment/removal there must be one week's notice of intent publicized.
- Section 3. Any officer or Committee Chair vacancies shall be filled by an election held within two weeks.
- Section 4. Any officer vacancies that occur mid-term shall be filled by interim officers, appointed by The Cabinet.
- Section 5. In the event that an officer shall be, by reason of valid circumstance, unable to physically carry out his obligations to The Franklin Society for a period of time longer than seven (7) days, a Pro Tempore officer shall be appointed by The Cabinet.
- Section 6. The Pro Tempore officer shall meet all the requirements necessary of officers.

- Section 7. The Pro Tempore officer shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of the constitution in the place of the officer who is physically unable to carry out his obligations.
- Section 8. The Pro Tempore officer shall no longer be responsible for these obligations once the officer has returned to The Cabinet and been briefed on the state of the organization at a Cabinet meeting.

ARTICLE XI

MEETINGS

- Section 1. There must be public notice of general meetings at least five (5) school days in advance, unless a special meeting is called by the Advisor and/or President.
- Section 2. There must be a meeting at least once a month.
- Section 3. There must be a quorum present in order to take care of financial action
- Section 4. Minutes must be kept of all financial action with the secretary.
- Section 5. The secretary shall keep a record of attendance at all meetings.

ARTICLE XII

ADVISOR

- Section 1. The role of the advisor shall be to:
- A. Serve as the official staff representative of the college.
 - B. Work closely with The Brotherhood to ensure a cooperative relationship between the advisor and the organization's membership.
 - C. To Assist each officer of the Franklin Society in understanding their duties.
 - D. Assist HAFS members in understanding and applying democratic principles within the organization and in working with others.
 - E. Be present for all organization meetings and activities (business and social), and to advise students of the policies and procedures which they must follow as an organization
 - F. Ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the safety and welfare of organization members.
 - G. Ensure that appropriate college policies are upheld.
 - H. To sign off and approve all organization sponsored events and expenditures.

ARTICLE XIII

CO-ADVISOR

- Section 1. The responsibilities of the advisor shall be as follows:
- A. Assist the advisor in all of his or her duties.
 - B. Assume the responsibilities of the advisor in his or her absence.
 - C. Provide additional counsel to the Cabinet and Executive Council of the Franklin Society; including second opinions on University Policy and legal considerations.
 - D. Work closely with the Advisor and the executive council to ensure thorough communication.
 - E. Periodically attend Cabinet and Executive Council meetings to monitor progress and facilitate important discussions, as appropriate.

ARTICLE XIV

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Section 1. This society accepts full social, academic and financial responsibility for all activities that bear its name as official sponsor or host, and shall adhere to all college and legal regulations.

ARTICLE XV

RIGHT TO ACT

- Section 1. Any officer or general member does not have the right to incur any debt or become involved in any business under the title or by implying the title of The Franklin Society in any way, unless given full authority to do so by the organization.

ARTICLE XVI

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

- Section 1. Any amendment change requires a unanimous vote among The Cabinet. If a unanimous vote cannot be reached in The Cabinet, a majority vote in both The Cabinet and Executive Council must be reached in order to amend the constitution.

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