



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS



**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS**

**01/05/2023**

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTION**

**01/05/2023**

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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 Concordia University 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**

### ***Section 1. Chapter Name***

The name of this organization shall be the Concordia University National Society of Black Engineers, hereafter called, “the Chapter.”

### ***Section 2. Objectives***

- A. The objectives of this organization shall coincide with those of the National Society of Black Engineers, which shall hereafter be referred to as the National Society.
- 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.

### ***Section 3. Tax Exempt Organization Statement***

- A. The Chapter is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes as defined and limited by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- B. Upon dissolution of the Chapter, assets in possession of the Chapter shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.



## ARTICLE II –CHAPTER GOVERNMENT

### *Section 1. Governing Laws*

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

### *Section 2. Final Approach*

- A. The Constitution, By-Laws 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 on the basis of sexes, 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 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, VP Internal ( NSBE Vice President), VP External(NSBE Senator), VP Finance( NSBE Finance Chair), VP Academic (NSBE Academic Excellence Chair), VP Event ( NSBE Conference Planning Chair), VP Marketing (NSBE Communications Chair), Director(s)(NSBE Representatives) and any other officers the chapter deems necessary.



- B. The chapter shall have a minimum of one advisor responsible for informing other faculty of the activities of this chapter.
- C. No person who resigns from his position shall be allowed to return to that position during the same academic year.

### ***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.
- B. VP Internal ( NSBE Vice President):
  - 1. Shall develop and execute a comprehensive outreach strategy to expand NSBE's presence.
  - 2. Shall establish partnerships with external organizations, emphasizing STEM awareness.
  - 3. Shall organize workshops, seminars, and community service initiatives.
  - 4. Shall collaborate with other VPs to integrate outreach into NSBE's events and assess impact regularly.
- C. VP External(NSBE Senator):
  - 1. Shall Serve as the primary representative of NSBE to external entities.
  - 2. Shall establish and maintain strategic partnerships with external organizations aligned with NSBE's mission.
  - 3. Shall attend relevant external meetings and events on behalf of the organization.
  - 4. Shall seek and explore opportunities for collaboration and engagement beyond the organization.
  - 5. Shall act as a liaison between NSBE and external stakeholders, fostering positive relationships.
- D. VP Finance( NSBE Finance Chair):
  - 1. Shall manage the organization's budget, overseeing financial transactions and allocations.
  - 2. Shall develop and present comprehensive budget proposals to the executive board.
  - 3. Shall lead fundraising initiatives and secure financial sponsorships.
  - 4. Shall ensure strict compliance with financial policies and regulations.
  - 5. Shall maintain accurate and up-to-date financial records, providing regular reports to the executive board.
  - 6. Shall collaborate with other VPs to judiciously allocate funds for various events and activities.
- E. VP Academic (NSBE Academic Excellence Chair):



1. Shall coordinate academic support programs, including tutoring sessions and study groups.
  2. Shall cultivate and maintain relationships with faculty and relevant academic departments.
  3. Shall organize workshops and seminars focused on academic and professional development.
  4. Shall disseminate information to members about academic opportunities, scholarships, and resources.
  5. Shall act as a liaison between NSBE members and academic support services.
  6. Shall provide informed guidance on course selection and career paths within the engineering field.
- F. VP Event ( NSBE Conference Planning Chair):
1. Shall plan, coordinate, and execute events and activities as outlined in NSBE's calendar.
  2. Shall collaborate closely with other VPs to ensure events align with NSBE's overall mission and goals.
  3. Shall manage logistical aspects of events, including venue reservations, catering, and promotion.
  4. Shall evaluate the success of events and gather feedback for continuous improvement.
  5. Shall foster collaboration with external partners for joint events.
  6. Shall ensure that all events align with NSBE's values and overarching objectives.
- G. VP Marketing ( NSBE Communications Chair):
1. Shall develop and execute a comprehensive marketing strategy to promote NSBE.
  2. Shall create engaging content for social media platforms, newsletters, and other communication channels.
  3. Shall design promotional materials, ensuring consistency with the organization's visual identity.
  4. Shall collaborate with other VPs to effectively promote events and activities.
  5. Shall manage NSBE's online presence, including the organization's website.
  6. Shall monitor and analyze marketing metrics to assess effectiveness and guide future strategies.
- H. Director(s) ( NSBE Representatives)
1. Shall oversee specific operational aspects or departments within NSBE, ensuring effective implementation of strategies.
  2. Shall collaborate with VPs to execute organizational goals and initiatives.
  3. Shall provide leadership and guidance to committee members or project teams.
  4. Shall monitor and evaluate the performance of assigned areas, making data-driven recommendations for improvement.
- I. Sage(s) ( NSBE Advisors)
1. Shall provide guidance and mentorship to NSBE members, offering insights into academic and professional growth.





#### ***Section 4. Elected Officers Requirements***

- A. Only NSBE general Chapter Members can hold elected positions in the Concordia University National Society of Black Engineers Chapter.
- B. All Vice-presidents and Presidents should be regular members of the Engineering & Computer Science Association.
- C. 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 The elected officers of the Chapter shall be the President, VP Internal ( NSBE Vice President), VP External(NSBE Senator), VP Finance( NSBE Finance Chair), VP Academic (NSBE Academic Excellence Chair), VP Event ( NSBE Conference Planning Chair), VP Marketing (NSBE Communications Chair), Director(s)(NSBE Representatives) and any other officers the chapter deems necessary.
- 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. Constitution*

- A. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Chapter with respect to all proposed amendments to the Constitution and By - Laws that may properly be referred to it for consideration
- B. The Committee reserves the right to make changes for the clarity of the Constitution.

### *Section 2. Fundraising*

- A. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Chapter with respect to which activities to plan for fundraising.

### *Section 2. Communications*

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

### *Section 3. Communications*

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### *Section 4. Nominations*

- A. The Committee shall be responsible for making nominations for all elected positions.
- B. The Committee shall set the criteria for which 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.



***Section 5. Executive***

- A. The Committee shall perform all duties assigned to it by this document
- B. The Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and of all committee chairpersons. The President shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee.
- 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.

**ARTICLE VII -TERMINATION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

***Section 1. Impeachment of Officers***

- A. Any board member of Concordia University 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 her duties, 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 office 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.

**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 2. 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.