

WWU

Black Student Union

**Charge and Charter
Winter 2008**

Article I.
Preamble/Mission statement:

The Black Student Union of Western Washington University is dedicated to the growth in awareness, knowledge, numbers, and the physical, emotional and mental health of African American students on this campus and in our community. In our attempts to promote peace and to deconstruct negative images and mentalities surrounding African Americans in the U.S., we extend our arms to all students, faculty and staff, and community members. Our organization is accepting of all supporters and members regardless of ethnic background, sexual orientation, disability, religious affiliation, political ties, occupation, age, gender, civilian status, education, language difference, appearance, or culture.

Our mission is to serve as a support system for the individual advancement and academic success of all students of color. The Black Student Union is committed to the safety of each of our members; therefore, we will not tolerate discrimination against our members in any fashion and will do our best to defend our members and affiliates in a non-violent manner. We encourage our members to learn their histories and participate in traditional and non-traditional activities in American society. To ensure the open-mindedness of our members it is important that provide a safe space to discuss the concerns of our members and those of others. We actively participate in the creation of the ideal multicultural environment on campus and establish a connection between our members and available local and national resources. We the members of the Black student Union are devoted to upholding these values.

Article II.
Officer Positions/ Membership

President: The president of the BSU will be responsible for participating in and being aware of all operations and activities, enforcing respect, clear communication, and accountability amongst members and officers. S/he is also responsible for Attending Presidents council, office hours, and all necessary trainings to increase personal leadership skills (which should be shared with others). It is the presidents' responsibility to facilitate task distribution and intergroup dialogue.

Vice President: The Vice Presidents responsibility is to assist the president in the facilitation of the group members and officers, and to assist the president in carrying out necessary tasks and upholding the values stated in our mission statement. The Vice President will stand in place of the President during times of sickness, vacation, or in death. In such case, the Vice president will assume all responsibilities of the president until their return.

Secretary: The secretary is responsible for documenting all decisions and actions passed by officers and members. The Secretary serves as the liaison between the members and the officers when they are unavailable. Also, the list serve will be run by the secretary. Secretary is responsible for keeping track of member attendance for election purposes.

Budget Authority: The Budget Authority has exclusive access to all club funds and account information. All financial paperwork (Expenditure reports, official budgets, etc.) must be signed by the budget authority. All financial decisions must be discussed with the Budget Authority before going into action. If they are unavailable you must receive the approval of the president, vice president and one other member. (The Budget Authority Must attend mandatory AS Budget Authority Training)

Public Relations: The two elected Public Relations officers are responsible for the advertisement of events and activities. Their main responsibility is to connect our organization with the greater community. Aside from events the Public Relations officer(s) communicate with other organizations for the purpose of networking and ally building.

Social Issues/Steering Rep: The Social Issues officers' responsibility is to facilitate community through group cooperation, peer-advising, education on social issues (primarily pertaining to African Americans), and providing opportunities for campus-wide involvement. (The steering representative is not allowed to make a vote on behalf of the Black Student Union, their responsibility is to represent the clubs decisions and report back to the club. (Must Attend Steering Meetings and Building Unity Training in the Fall)

All Officers:

All BSU officers are responsible for upholding the Mission Statement, respect, honesty, good communication, and open-mindedness. Jobs will overlap at times and it is mandatory that BSU officers support one another in completing each other's tasks. If an officer is not fulfilling their goals or tasks they will be held accountable.

Active Members:

An active member is defined as someone who regularly attends 40% of all meetings and participates in as many functions and activities as they can. Members are not obligated, but encouraged to participate as often as possible, to the best of their comfort and abilities.

**Article III.
Elections**

Section 1

Application:

- Applications: will be given on the first meeting of Spring Quarter.
 - Only active members may apply. We will Vote three weeks after applications are submitted to allow time for campaigning and examination of all applicants.

Section 2

Voting:

- Voting: Before voting, each candidate has the opportunity to give a final 3 minute speech before the entire BSU. The voting process will be facilitated by the BSU officers. There is one (1) vote allowed per member/officer.
 - Ballots will be counted by a designated officer and an outside person immediately after they are all turned in. In the case of a tie, the members may re-vote.

Section 3

Job Shadowing:

- Once an officer is selected their predecessor must have two meetings with them, to describe their position and answer any relevant questions. Also, the forerunning officer must teach that student any necessary skill required to assume the position of Social Issues/Steering Rep, Public Relations, Secretary, Vice President, President, or any new positions that are created as of 1/25/08.
- All new officers must attend officer meetings and begin to plan their own meetings or participate in the planning of meetings once they have been elected.

Section 4

Impeachment/Resignation:

- If an officer is not fulfilling their duties the BSU officers must hold a meeting discussing any concerns that pertain to the officer(s) in question. If there is no change in the officers' behavior they will be re-evaluated or asked to leave based on group consensus. 2/3 of the officers must agree to relieve another officer of their duties (this can only be done after formal meeting). Depending on the offense an officer may be asked to leave the board immediately. In this case each officer must use their own discretion to make a decision.
- If an officer resigns, for whatever reason, they must serve two weeks before resignation. In that time the runner up or another member will be chosen to fill the vacancy, via the election process stated previously in the appropriate time frame.

Article IV.

General Decision Making

Section 1

General Meetings:

- In order to vote on an action item the BSU members and officers must collectively discuss the action item. Once discussion is held there is a vote. The majority of the attending members and officers must agree on the same decision for the action to pass. When there is a tie the

members must either continue to dialogue or abstain from voting at the next Steering Meeting.

Section 2

Officer Meetings:

- For a decision to be made there must be quorum (more than half of the BSU officers available. Missing officers must be informed of the decision.
- If less than half are present there cannot be a vote.
- Voting is subject to a motion, a second, discussion and finally a vote.

Article V Empowering Institutions

Note:

The empowering institutions were designed to generate motivation and space for all members to participate. Each institution applies and teaches different skills that fit the needs of most students. The goals of each institution will be adjusted annually. All categories will be carried over into the next year and will be headed by a new officer and one group member.

An officers' role is to facilitate group activity and provide support, training, and/or other resources that will allow the group to accomplish any goal(s) they set.

Basic Description(s):

Fundraising - Raising funds throughout the year for scholarships, events, and other endeavors.

Team Building/ Outside Activities – Attempts to Increase group unity, participation in outside activities, and events on campus.

Academic/ Student Support - Creating spaces for studying networking and encouragement. Also, to promote tutoring and improved education for all students on campus.

Community/ Campus wide Involvement - Pursuing and participating in projects that benefit us as a group and the greater community.

**Article VI.
Amendments**

Section 1

Changes to Charge and Charter:

- **All members must have equal access to the Charge and Charter**

- ❖ **To make an amendment to the Charge and Charter one must make a motion to amend a portion, or all, of the Charge and Charter. Next an active group member must second that motion. Then the change will be subject to questioning. Once all opinions have been voiced, the amendment is voted on by the BSU members and officers. 2/3 of the members and officers must agree on the same conditions or the vote is subject to a re-vote or declination.**