



# Black Students of California United



## (DRAFT) CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### SECTION I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Black Students of California United. Formed on April 16, 2016, and launched on August 22, 2016.

#### SECTION II – COMPOSITION

The BSCU shall be composed of high school and middle school (7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> gr.) delegates from California's 40 senatorial districts.

### ARTICLE II

#### SECTION I – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

It is the intention of the BSCU to re-define the image of Black youth, promote the development of cooperative efforts among their schools and communities, to train and encourage leadership, and to become a nation-wide organization.

#### SECTION II - FUNCTION

The BSCU shall seek to accomplish its purpose by hearing speakers, attending and producing workshops to discuss educational, political, and social concerns, and to provide scholarships for members seeking post-secondary education.

### ARTICLE III

#### TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS

#### SECTION I – FULL MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to high school clubs or community-based organizations serving high school students whose purpose and objectives are in agreement with the Constitution and By-laws of the BSCU. An annual membership fee is required to be in good and regular standing.

#### SECTION II – JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

Junior membership shall be open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade clubs or community-based organizations serving junior high students whose purpose and objectives are in agreement with the Constitution and By-laws of the BSCU. An annual membership fee of not more than one half the current Full Membership is required to be in good and regular standing.

## **ARTICLE IV            YOUTH SENATE**

### **SECTION I – COMPOSITION**

The Youth Senate will consist of 40 representatives from each senatorial district in California.

In the event there is no representative from a participating district, the Board will appoint a representative-at-large.

### **SECTION II – TENURE**

The term of the representative shall be one (1) year and the student must be enrolled in a secondary school in the state of California during the term of office.

### **SECTION III – QUALIFICATION OF YOUTH SENATORS**

The representatives shall have a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA, verified by an official transcript and approved by the Board.

### **SECTION IV – DUTIES OF THE YOUTH SENATE**

#### **A. President Pro-tem**

1. Calls the meeting to order.
2. Presides over the business of the floor.
3. Closes the meeting.

#### **B. Vice President Pro-tem**

1. Presides in the absence of the President Pro-tem.
2. Maintains BSCU membership roster.

#### **C. Secretary**

1. Records minutes and takes supplemental notes at all meetings.
2. Works with the Webmaster and Boards to update and maintain social media accounts and the BSCU webpage.

#### **E. Sergeant-at-Arms**

1. Maintain order in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*.
2. Assist the Parliamentarian with elections.

**F. Parliamentary**

1. Insure that the general sessions are conducted orderly in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*.
2. Co-chairperson of Elections Committee.

**ARTICLE V**

**BSCU ASSEMBLY – ANNUAL BSCU STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**SECTION I – AUTHORITY, TIME, AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The annual conference shall meet at least once each year in one of the senatorial districts, subject to approval by the Board.

**SECTION II – VOTING ELIGIBILITY**

- A. All credentials must be in order and ratified by the Board before any member club will be able to vote in any general session in accordance with the By-laws, Article I.
- B. Each delegate will have one vote.

**ARTICLE VI**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**SECTION I – COMPOSITION**

The Board shall consist of 10 Members plus the Youth Senate's President Pro-Tem. The Board officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentary.

**SECTION II – FUNCTION**

The Board shall have full authority over the affairs of the BSCU, the Advisory Council, and the Youth Senate. The Board insures that the BSCU values, mission and vision are reflected in all activities.

**SECTION III – TENURE**

The term of Board members in any office shall be two (2) years. The maximum number of terms shall be two (2) terms. If an exception to either provision is to be made, a vote must be taken by the Board.

**SECTION IV --DUTIES OF BOARD OFFICERS.**

**A. President**

1. Call and preside at board meetings to conduct business of the BSCU.
2. Work with the President Pro-tem.
3. Serves as an ex-officio on all committees.
4. Ensure committees are formed, functioning, and regulated.
5. Act as spokesperson for the BSCU organization.

**B. Vice President**

1. Shall preside in the absence of the President.
2. Member of the Conference Committee.
3. Co-chairperson of Public Relations Committee.

**C. Secretary**

1. Record minutes at state conference and all Board meetings. Keep the official records of the BSCU.

**D. Treasurer**

1. Works with the president to provide fiduciary oversight and present reports at quarterly board meetings.
2. Present the credentials report.
3. Co-chairperson of Fundraising Committee.

**E. Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms**

1. Process any concerns of the members of the organization, and maintain order in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
2. Helps oversee elections.
3. Member of Public Relations Committee.

**ARTICLE VII****ADVISORY COUNCIL****SECTION I – COMPOSITION**

The Advisory Council shall consist of no more than 10 BSCU member club advisors. Advisory Council members shall be elected bi-annually at the BSCU Conference.

**SECTION II – FUNCTION**

The Advisory Council shall provide council and support to the Executive Board, and assist in planning BSCU District Leadership Forums and events.

**SECTION III – TENURE**

The term of Advisory Council members shall be two (2) years. The maximum number of terms shall be two (2) terms.

## **ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION I – STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **A. Election Committee**

Responsible for elections, membership, and credentials.

#### **B. Scholarship Committee**

Handles all scholarship applications. Chooses scholarship recipients.

#### **C. Fund Raising Committee**

Finds and writes grants for the organization.

#### **D. Public Relations Committee**

Responsible for promoting the organization, dissemination of information to the news and social media, and coordination of the media at the conference site.

#### **E. Recruitment Committee**

Responsible for recruiting new member schools in each senatorial district. A report will be made at each Board meeting.

#### **F. Health Ambassadors Committee**

Responsible for recruiting and training youth to be BSCU Health Ambassadors. An end-of-month report is to be submitted to the board on the progress and status of the health program.

### **SECTION II – COMPOSITION**

Composition of committees shall be established at a general meeting of the Executive Board.

### **SECTION III – SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Shall be established by the Executive Board as needed.

## **ARTICLE IX RULES OF ORDER**

### **SECTION I – SOURCE**

*Robert's Rules of Order Revised.*

A. A quorum, for voting purposes, shall be a simple majority of the Board.

**ARTICLE X            AMENDMENTS****SECTION I – PROCEDURE**

- A. Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws shall be made by the Board and presented at the next state conference.
- B. Amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the credentialed schools present.

**ARTICLE X            RATIFICATION**

This Constitution and By-laws shall be ratified at the annual BSCU conference.

**ARTICLE XI           BUDGET**

- A. The budget for BSCU Operating Account shall be presented and approved by the Board at the Spring meeting following the state conference.

This shall include a report of expenses for the current academic year and a projected budget for the following academic year.

- B. Any expenditure over a petty cash limit of \$100.00 shall require pre-approval by Board vote.



## **(DRAFT) BSCU BY-LAWS**



### **ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP, FEES, AND EXPULSION**

#### **SECTION I**

The qualifications for membership are defined in the BSCU Constitution.

#### **SECTION II**

Application for membership and payment of membership fees shall be made to the *Black Students of California United*

#### **SECTION III**

A member school, club, or organization shall give a concise account of their qualifications as may be desired by the Board.

#### **SECTION IV**

The amount of annual membership fees payable to the BSCU treasury shall be effective for the full academic year. (August 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>)

#### **SECTION V**

Membership fees shall be due and received by December 1st (of the academic year of the annual BSCU Conference), after which time a late fee will be assessed.

### **ARTICLE II ELECTIONS**

#### **SECTION I**

- A. Election of BSCU Youth Senate representatives shall be held each year under the supervision of the Executive Board. Election shall be by a plurality vote of all active student members and voting per the provisions of the BSCU Constitution, at a duly called meeting of the Black Students of California United.
- B. An Election Committee shall be appointed by the Board to coordinate elections.

## **ARTICLE III      BSCU YOUTH SENATE**

### **SECTION I**

Any student representative of the BSCU Youth Senate who misses three (3) regular or special meetings without just cause shall forfeit his/her senatorial seat. In the event a BSCU Youth Senator is removed for this purpose, the BSCU Advisory Board will appoint an interim BSCU Youth Senator, until such time as the next regular scheduled election takes place.

### **SECTION II**

The BSCU Youth Senate shall meet a minimum of twice a year. The graduating Youth Senators shall act as mentors to the newly elected district senators until the end of the fiscal year. (July)

## **ARTICLE IV      BSCU EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **SECTION I**

Any regular member of the Board who misses three (3) consecutive regular or special meetings without just cause shall forfeit his/her board seat. In the event a Board member is removed for this purpose, the Board will appoint an interim Board member until such time as the next regular scheduled election takes place.

### **SECTION II**

The Board shall not incur any debt of liability exceeding the net assets of the Black Students of California United.

## **ARTICLE V      REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

### **SECTION I**

The removal of any officer(s) [student or adult] may be requested by majority vote of the Board. Written notification of requested removal shall be mailed prior to vote to remove.