AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENT UNION
Hillsborough Community College
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the African-American Student Union, hereinafter referred to as AASU.

MISSION OF AASU

The mission of the African American Student Union is to improve the black experience at Hillsborough Community College by providing uplifting and entertaining events while exchanging knowledge and culture with the student body. In addition, we are to challenge each student to improve professionally, socially, and personally as to leave a positive impact on the community. The goal of AASU is to instill a sense of identity and pride in the African-American students of HCC. AASU is committed to raising academic achievement and striving for high values. AASU will focus on providing an understanding of history and culture. Finally, the AASU will work to promote unity and support while fostering social service among all African people.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of AASU shall be:
A. To serve as an official voice for the African-American community at HCC
B. To identify and address educational, economic, political and cultural concerns unique to minorities.
C. To establish purposeful interaction and communication between student, faculty and administrators.
D. To promote academic excellence through study groups, peer counseling, positive reinforcement and appropriate referrals as needed.
E. To enhance leadership skills and encourage participation in other school clubs, institutional committees, civic and service organizations as well as Student Government Association,
F. To develop and implement programming that will identify and address cultural dilemmas encountered by African-American students at HCC
G. To promote cultural awareness on and off campus through special activities that recognizes the service, talents and contributions of African-Americans within and beyond our immediate communities.
H. To actively participate in the recruitment and retention of African-American Students at HCC and to develop an educational experience that is productive, enjoyable and conducive to learning.
I. To collaborate with other organizations to provide programming that promotes a diverse learning atmosphere while fostering relationships with students of various ethnic backgrounds.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY

Membership in AASU shall be open to all HCC students who support the purpose of the organizations and adhere to the constitution. All active members must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to be in good standing and a 2.5 to travel. AASU general membership is open to all current HCC students regardless of sex, race, religion, age, martial status, sexual preferences, or class standing.

SECTION 2: DUES

Dues are $10 each Fall semester per current members. There will be a one month grace period for new members. Members who do not pay their dues will not be in good standing and will have all membership rights revoked until dues are paid such as removal of voting and traveling privileges.

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATION'S COLORS

The official colors of AASU shall be, red, black, green, and gold, symbolic of the following:
Green: for the fertilizer of the Motherland we feel proud to call “home”. It also symbolizes our potential to flourish as a united people.

Red: for the life, bloodline, and bloodshed of our people. The blood that flows within each of our hearts to unites us to be our brothers’ keepers and to share each others’ joy and pain.

Black: for our Heritage. The strength, promise, and fullness of our people and the hope that we embrace for better humankind.

Gold: for our rich and royal ancestry, our brilliant minds, and our valuable contributions to humanity.

**ARTICLE V: OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1: CATEGORIES**

A. **ELECTED OFFICERS**: shall include the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

B. **APPOINTED OFFICERS**: shall include the Parliamentarian, Historian, Chaplin, and Student Government Association Representative(s).

**SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS**

A. **ELECTED OFFICERS**:
   a. Shall be currently enrolled at HCC and be in good standing.
   b. Shall have and maintain a 2.0 or better grade point average, with the exception of the President and the vice president who shall have and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA.

B. **APPOINTED OFFICERS** shall meet the same qualifications as elected officers, with the exception of the President and Vice President qualifications.

**SECTION 3: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

A. The duties of the **President** shall be:
   1. To preside at all meeting of the organization and those of the Executive Board.
   2. To serve as a chairperson of the Executive Board.
   3. To serve as the spokesperson for the organization.
   4. To call meetings when necessary and be approved by the advisor.
   5. To monitor and enforce the duties and responsibilities of the officers and members of the organization.
   6. To submit an annual report to the organization advisor by the end of the Spring term of the school year.
   7. To perform such duties as required by the organization

B. The duties of the **Vice President** shall be:
1. To assume the duties of the President in his/her absence or inability to perform
2. To assist the President in an administrative function as prescribed by the President or Advisor.
3. To oversee all special committees.
4. To plan and coordinate with the advisor’s sanction, all club recruiting efforts.
5. To perform other duties as prescribed by the President or Advisor.

C. The duties of the **Secretary** shall be:
   1. To record minutes of all meetings of the general membership and the Executive Board.
   2. To maintain custody of minutes of all meetings and all other non-financial records.
   3. To type and mail all correspondence of AASU.
   4. To type, post/mail notice of all meetings.
   5. To perform other duties as may be prescribed by the President or Advisor.

D. The duties of the **Treasurer** shall be:
   1. To maintain custody of all AASU funds and financial records.
   2. To maintain complete and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements and render account thereof to the Executive Board and Advisor.
   3. To complete and submit to the advisor by the end of the Spring semester, the club’s Annual Report.
   4. To perform other duties as may be prescribed by the President or Advisor.

E. The duties of the **Sergeant-At-Arms** shall be:
   1. To study and maintain a working knowledge of parliamentary procedures and Robert’s Rule of Order.
   2. To advise the President and the Executive Board on matters of the meeting management relevant to parliamentary procedures.
   3. To plan and coordinate training of the membership parliamentary procedures.
   4. To be completely familiar with AASU’s constitution and ensure that the organization conducts business in compliance thereof.
   5. The Sergeant-At-Arms will secure meetings and escort those of disruptive behavior (without any physicality) out of the meetings.
   6. To maintain respect of the hierarchy of AASU.

F. The duties of the **Historian** shall be:
   1. To prepare a narrative and pictorial account of AASU’s activities during the school year, which, when approved by the membership, will become a permanent part of the organization’s official history.
   2. To perform other duties as prescribed by the President or Advisor.

G. The duty of the **Chaplain**:
   1. To lead invocation and benediction as needed at the meetings and other club sponsored activities.
   2. Head of peer counseling.
   3. Master of ceremonies.
H. The duty of the SGA Representative(s) shall be:
1. To serve as liaison between the organization and the campus Student Government Association
2. To attend all SGA meetings to address issues of concern on behalf of the organization and serve as the AASU spokesperson in that forum
3. To report at each AASU meeting, the activities of the past SGA meeting.
4. More than one person can be a representative
   (One must not be a senator and a SGA representative of the club).

SECTION 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

A. Elections will be held at the end of each academic school year.
B. Must have a cumulative 2.0 G.P.A at time of elections with the exception of the president and the vice president which should have a minimum 2.5 GPA.
C. Must be a part time or full time HCC student at the Ybor Campus (This only apply to executive board members)
D. All candidates must have attended 50% of general body meetings
E. Candidates shall be nominated and elected by a majority vote of all active members in attendance. The President will only vote to break a tie.
F. All elections shall be publicized to members by an announcement at the preceding meeting.
G. The Executive Board shall consist of all elected and appointed officers and the Advisor.
H. The President and the Advisor shall select all appointed officers.

SECTION 5: COMMITTEES

All committees shall be appointed as needed Default committees are to ensure that the club is operating successfully by fulfilling the objectives and purpose of AASU. All committees must report to the Vice president and have a committee report for every regularly scheduled meeting. These default committees are as follows:

Activities-
A. Search for activities that will benefit the community and AASU.
B. All activities (with the exception of some charity work) will first be voted on by the body and must have the majority vote.

Roots-
A. To research and bring forth any and/or African–American history that can be used in meetings or any other AASU related events.
B. To devise themes for meetings and any other AASU related events.

Fundraising-
A. To find sponsors for AASU and AASU related events and /or activities.
B. To research ideas for fundraisers.
C. To complete proper fundraising paperwork according to the HCC policies.
Hospitality-
A. To research ideas for AASU and bring food to AASU related events and/or activities.
B. Serve as Ambassadors of AASU in any event needed.

Publicity-
A. To help recruit and advertise anything concerning the club to create flyers for anything related to AASU.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS
A. Meetings dates and times shall be set as standing rules by the Exec. Board Elected during fall
B. Meetings are mandatory, and penalties will be issued for unexcused absences.

SECTION 1: REGULAR MEETINGS
A. Meetings shall be held at least six times per month.
B. The Executive Board shall meet 30 min before every AASU group meeting.

SECTION 2 CALL MEETINGS
Call meetings may be scheduled as needed. These must be publicized no later than one day prior to meeting date (24 hrs).

ARTICLE VII ADVISORS
AASU Advisors shall be selected by the organization in accordance with the administrative rules and procedures.

ARTICLE VIII VACANCIES
A. If a member of the executive board has been absent for three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings without adequate notification to the AASU executive board or advisor or has (4) unexcused early dismissals from meetings, the position of that executive member becomes vacant by the majority vote of the board.
B. All seats unoccupied through ineligibility, dismissal, recall, or resignation shall be considered vacant.
C. The president, with the approval of the board, shall appoint an eligible AASU member to fill the vacant position.