

- **to finance various club projects**

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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
AFRICAN STUDENTS
ASSOCIATION



AFRICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

TRUE FREEDOM IS THE ABILITY TO FREE YOUR MIND OF ALL PREJUDICE AND AT THE SAME TIME OPEN IT TO LEARN. THIS KIND OF FREEDOM IS WHAT HUMANS BEINGS SHOULD STRIVE FOR. THE FIRST STEP IS TO REALIZE THAT WE ARE NOT PERFECT. THEN WHAT? MAYBE VIGOROUSLY PURSUE HONEST REASONING.

- Ernest Adoo

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the African Students Association of RPI otherwise known as ASA.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

The goals of this organization shall be:

- To promote an awareness and understanding of African's culture, traditions and history.
- To serve as a base of support and encouragement for people from Africa and within the club.
- To discuss and develop solution to technological and infrastructure problems facing Africa.
- To promote and help in the recruitment of underrepresented minorities.
- To establish a network with the African community in the US.

ARTICLE 3 — MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

- Membership to ASA shall be open to all members of the community regardless of race, sex, color, religion, handicap, national origin, or sexual preference.
- ASA will not require the forced consumption of alcohol, drugs or any substance that will be a health hazard, for the purpose of initiation into or affiliation with the club.

SECTION 2

Membership shall be defined as any one of the following:

1. Voting members shall be full time students of RPI and their spouses, who:
 - Have paid the organizational dues and full-time Rensselaer Union activity fee.
 - Uphold the constitution and are in agreement with the purpose of the organization.
2. Associate members shall be continuing education, part time students and non-activity fee paying students, RPI faculty, staff, and alumni (and their spouses). Students registered at Russell Sage College and Hudson Valley Community College shall be eligible for associate membership. Their per person subsidy will be less than a regular member
3. Any person who has been of exceptional assistance to the organization shall be defined as a volunteer member subsequent to his/her admission as a volunteer member by a majority vote of the voting membership.

SECTION 3

Volunteer and Associate members may not vote, hold office, or be regular committee chairpersons except with: special Rensselaer Union Executive Board approval, payment of organizational dues, and compliance with the constitution and purpose of the organization.

SECTION 4

Voting within the organization will be restricted to voting members, who attend at least three general meetings in the current or previous semester. Any member is entitled to make proposals concerning the organization.

SECTION 5

All club members must adhere to all Rensselaer Union rules, and are subject to all Rensselaer Union rules and Institute standards and disciplinary procedures

ARTICLE 4 - OFFICERS

SECTION 1

The Executive Board shall consist of the president, the vice president, the secretary, the treasurer, the public relations chair and the webmaster. It shall be the chief policy making body of the organization. However, all powers shall ultimately reside with the voting membership. Any decision of the ASA Executive Board shall be made by a simple majority rule of the members of the Board, each of whom will have one vote. No single board member shall have the power to obligate the organization without the approval of the ASA Executive Board, unless otherwise designated.

SECTION 2

The duties of the elected officers shall include, but not be limited to the following:

The President shall:

- Act as chief spokesperson for the organization.
- Preside over all General Body meetings.
- Sign all documents and financial statements not delegated to other member of the Executive Board.
- Have authority to make executive decisions involving the organization in any circumstance while neither the membership nor the Executive Board is available.
- Have veto power over decisions of the general membership or the Executive Board.
- A vote of fifty-one percent majority of voting members shall override the veto of the president.
- A vote of fifty-one percent majority of Executive Board members shall override the veto of the president.

The Vice—President shall:

- Coordinate the work of the Executive Board and the committees.
- Assist the President in the performance of his or her duties.
- Preside over all Executive Board meetings.
- Assume the responsibilities of the President in the event of his or her absence.
- Head the committees dealing with the social and cultural activities of the organization.
- Be responsible for, along with the committee members, creating and organizing activities that promote awareness and understanding of the cultures, traditions, and history of the African people.
- Be responsible for creating and organizing activities which foster fellowship among members of the organization, the RPI community, and the African community at large.

The Secretary shall:

- Be in charge of keeping attendance.
- Keep the minutes at all the general body and Executive Board meetings.
- Carry on official correspondence of the organization.
- Maintain organizational records, including pertinent information regarding all the members of the organization.
- Assume the responsibilities of the vice-president in the event of his or her absence.
- Submit current officer and membership lists to the Union administration office.

The Treasurer shall:

- Be co-signator for all financial affairs of the organization.
- Report on the financial situations as required by the Executive Board and the membership.
- Draft a budget plan for the forthcoming year, in conjunction with the executive board, and to be approved by the general membership.
- Maintain the official membership list in conjunction with the Secretary, and also collect club dues.

Public Relations Chair shall:

- Be responsible for the correspondence and networking which will establish and maintain contact with the African community at large.
- Be responsible for the recruitment of new members to the organization.
- Be a source of communication and collaboration between this organization and others.
- Be responsible for organizing functions that foster support within the organization.

Webmaster shall:

- Responsible for publicizing club events and meetings across different social media platform.
- Responsible for maintaining the club social media platform and promoting the social outlook of the club.