

# ASSOCIATION OF VANDERBILT BLACK ALUMNI (AVBA)

## BY-LAWS

### **Article I. Name and Nature.**

1. The name of the organization shall be the Association of Vanderbilt Black Alumni.
2. The organization shall be a component part of the Alumni Association of Vanderbilt University.

### **Article II. Purposes.**

The broad purposes are:

1. To promote the mission, aims and general welfare of Vanderbilt University with particular focus on the needs and concerns of black students, faculty, staff and alumni.
2. To maintain communications and dialogue with the administration and faculty of the University on matters affecting the accessibility of University programs, services and benefits to black students, faculty, staff and alumni, and the development of policies and procedures to promote their wider participation in University and campus affairs.

### **Article III. Membership.**

Regular members shall have voting rights. Only regular members shall hold elected offices. Associate members may serve on standing and ad hoc committees.

1. All black graduates of any of the colleges and schools that make up Vanderbilt University shall be regular members of the AVBA.
2. All black students who formerly attended Vanderbilt University for at least one semester shall be regular members of the AVBA.
3. Present and former black faculty and staff of Vanderbilt shall be designated associate members.
4. Any other persons who are interested in and supportive of the purpose of the AVBA shall be eligible for associate membership, following their recommendation by any regular member of the AVBA.

### **Article IV. Officers.**

The elected officers shall serve their elected terms or until their successors are elected. In the event of a vacancy, the President shall appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a replacement to serve the remainder of the term. Officers will be elected during the month of April and assume the duties of their position in May.

#### *Section A. The President.*

The President shall be elected biennially by the Association and shall serve a two-year term. The President shall exercise the powers and authority generally associated with the office of a chief executive of an Alumni Association, and shall be an ex-officio member of all standing and ad hoc committees.

*Section B. The Vice-President.*

The Vice-President shall be elected biennially by the Association and shall serve a two-year term. The position of Vice-President must be held by an alumnus located within the Middle Tennessee area. The Vice-President shall serve in the absence of the President, and shall oversee all standing and ad hoc committees.

*Section C. The Secretary.*

The Secretary shall be elected biennially by the Association and shall serve a two-year term. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at all meetings.

*Section D. The Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms.*

A Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms shall be appointed by the President to serve during each annual business meeting of the Association. The Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms must be familiar with Robert's Rules of Order (*Newly Revised, Latest Edition*) and act to ensure adherence to such rules during the meeting. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms to serve at any other time as deemed necessary.

**Article V. Standing Committees.**

The President shall appoint members of the Association to serve as chairpersons of the following standing committees. The Chairs of the standing committees shall report at the annual business meeting, executive committee meetings, and general body meetings.

1. *Student Affairs Committee.*

This committee is primarily concerned with increasing the black student presence and quality of life at Vanderbilt University. Key areas of interest for the Committee are: Student Recruitment (all schools) -- including Admissions and Financial Aid; Career Counseling, Development, and Mentor Program (undergraduate); Campus Life -- Greek System, Black Student Alliance (BSA), and other minority student organizations [e.g. Organization of Graduate and Professional Students (OBGAPS) and Black American Law Students Association (BALSA)].

2. *Alumni Relations Committee.*

This committee concerns itself with activities, programs and communications which affect and enhance the ongoing relationship between former students and the evolving University community. Key areas of attention are: Vanderbilt Alumni Association -- includes Vanderbilt Clubs around the nation, membership in the Association of Vanderbilt Black Alumni (AVBA); AVBA publications and coverage of AVBA in other University publications; Speakers Bureau and social activities and programs.

3. *University Affairs Committee.*

This committee is concerned with the administration and governance of the University and the impact of policies and procedures on black students, faculty, administrators, and staff. It also relates to the relationship of the University to the larger black community of Metropolitan Nashville. Key contact areas are: the University Administration; the Board of Trustees; the Association of Black Faculty and Administrators; the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center; black staff employees, recruitment, promotion and other personnel policies; long range planning and development; Opportunity Development Center; relations with minority community groups, institutions, and organizations.

4. *Athletic Affairs Committee.*

This committee is concerned with the quality of life at Vanderbilt University for black athletes, issues affecting black athletes and the Vanderbilt University Athletic Department.

5. *Reunion Committee.*

This committee is charged with the responsibility for planning and implementing strategies necessary to successfully conduct reunion activities and programs on behalf of AVBA. Key areas of concern are: program planning and scheduling; awards/recognition; special events involving one or more of the schools and colleges; and evaluation of programs, events, etc.

6. *Nominating Committee.*

Develops policies, procedure and conducts necessary activities to ensure that leadership and other key positions within the AVBA are filled through an orderly process of nomination, election, and appointment.

7. *Finance Committee*

This committee shall be primarily concerned with: alumni giving and fund raising for minority scholarships, including the AVBA Student Aid Fund.

8. *By-Laws Committee.*

This committee shall be responsible for conducting a biennial review of the Association's By-Laws and making recommendations for change as necessary.

9. *The Executive Committee.*

This committee shall be responsible for determining and recommending policies, programs and activities which shall further the purposes and goals of the AVBA. In accordance with the By-Laws of the AVBA, it shall have the authority to conduct the affairs of the AVBA in the absence of and during interim periods when other committees are not convened and functioning.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the immediate past President, and two at-large members to be appointed by the President. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Association between general meetings. All black members of the University's Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Board of Trust, and the Director of Alumni Relations, shall serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Committee of the Black Alumni Association. Three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

10. *Ad Hoc Committees.*

The President may appoint Ad Hoc committees as needed.

**Article VI. Meetings.**

An annual business meeting of the Association will be held in the spring or fall of each year. The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly, or on call, and shall be responsible for the planning of the annual business meeting, in conjunction with the Reunion Committee. The President shall call periodic general body meetings. Meetings shall adhere to Roberts Rules of Order (Newly Revised, Latest Edition).

**Article VII. Amendments.**

The articles may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Committee confirmed by a majority vote of those present at the next annual business meeting of the Association or as prescribed by the membership at a general body meeting.