

National of Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Constitution

Article I: Name

National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)

Article II: Purpose

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) was founded in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune, child of slave parents, distinguished educator and government consultant. Mrs. Bethune saw the need for harnessing the power and extending the leadership of African American women through a national organization. NCNW is an "organization of organizations" and serves as a clearing house for the activities of women. From the beginning, women of all racial and cultural backgrounds were included and welcomed to work together. Mrs. Bethune described "... the need for a united organization of women to open doors for our young women, united so that when it speaks, its power will be felt. The National Council of Negro Women is an organization that promotes unity amongst black women. Through our creative and unique programs we attempt to demystify all negativity and we embrace each other as women... we are in the process of "Recreating Creating the Woman..."

Article III: Membership

NCNW is open to all UC Berkeley students, whether in your undergraduate or graduate studies, faculty and staff. This organization is open to anyone interested in helping debunk negative stereotypes and uplifting African American women on campus. Only currently registered students, faculty, and staff may be active members in a registered student organization. Only active members may vote or hold office. Off-campus participants and NCNW alumni are considered associate members. Associate membership is open to all interested individuals who have signed up for our email list and who attend at least 2 NCNW events per semester.

We will not haze according to California State Law. We will not restrict membership based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (including membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services.)

Article IV: Officers/Elections

The NCNW board consists of the following positions: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, public relations/historian, and Akanke Mentoring Coordinator.

The President is the primary initiator of the strategic planning effort. She provides leadership, direction, and support in the planning effort, and meets and communicates regularly with

external organizations. Past NCNW events include Sunday Brunch, Freshwomen's Retreat, Black Men's Appreciation, and NCNW Loves You Week. The role of the President is to initiate the planning of major NCNW events and delegate tasks among the board. The President is the primary spokeswoman for NCNW. Furthermore, the President's role is to mobilize NCNW members to create positive change in the community through service projects.

The Vice President is required to fulfill the position of President under the conditions when the appointed one is unable to do so. The Vice President is also responsible for regular internal communication within NCNW Board.

The Treasurer is expected to create a budget and manage funds for each event and meeting. The Treasurer is required to attend the ASUC Student Leadership Training and work closely with the ASUC Financial Advisor. In addition, the Treasurer handles all reimbursements and applications for outside funds when necessary.

The Secretary is expected to coordinate communication among the board and the women on campus. Also, the Secretary keeps note of the discussions taken place during bimonthly board meetings. In addition, the Secretary must keep a tally of NCNW's general body membership. The Public Relations Coordinator is responsible for bridging the gap between the NCNW Board and the larger community through the publicity of upcoming events and meetings. Moreover, the role of the historian is to capture memorable moments during NCNW events and meetings. It is expected that a scrapbook be compiled following every academic year.

The Akanke Mentoring Program seeks to provide mentoring and enriching programs for young women in the local communities. The coordinator for the academic year will be responsible for initiating and pursuing young ladies in the community to become Akanke mentees in addition to planning events and workshops that will foster the growth of this program.

In the event that a board member is not fulfilling his/her own duties outlined above, a 4/6 vote by the entire board can remove the individual from office and an active member may be delegated to fill the vacancy on the board.

Officers are chosen through an application process. Interested applicants will submit an officer application via email. All applicants will then be interviewed by the current board. The board will then vote for officers based on their applications and interviews. A majority vote of 4/6 will elect an officer.

The executive committee will consist of the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

NCNW officers serve for one academic year (fall and spring semesters). Elections for officer positions for the next academic year will occur at the end of the spring semester (early May).

The secretary will serve as the primary contact for NCNW. All board members can serve as signatories. The president will choose 4 members to formally become signatories, but if the remaining 2 board members would also like to become signatories, they are welcome to do so.

Elections for the upcoming school year will be held in April of every year. In order to be eligible to run for president, the individual must have been on the NCNW board the previous year. However, the other positions are open to anyone interested.

Article V: Meetings

The NCNW board meets once every week. The date of the board meetings depend on the availability and schedule of the current board members. The General Body Meetings (GBMs) are held once a month. The date of the GBMs are also dependent on the availability of the board. Both the board meetings and the GBMs are to be called by the president. The quorum for board meetings is 4 members, and the quorum for GBMs is 10 members.

Emergency meetings can only be called by the president. It is up to the discretion of the president to determine what is urgent enough for an emergency meeting to be called. Members will be notified of an emergency meeting via text message.

Article VI: Amendments

Only current members of the NCNW board may propose an amendment. An amendment may be proposed at the board meeting and a 4/6 majority vote is required at the following board meeting in order for the amendment to be voted on by active members. If the amendment makes it past the board, the amendment is then proposed at the following general body meeting and active members are given until the next general body meeting (approximately a month) to vote via an online poll for or against the amendment. In order for the amendment to pass, a 2/3 majority vote is required from the active members. In the case that an amendment is passed, a notification will be sent to the active members via the NCNW listserv and an announcement will be made at the following general body meeting. All amendments, additions or deletions to this document must be filed with the LEAD Center in 432 Eshleman Hall.

Article VII: Dissolution

NCNW will be dissolved when the mission is no longer relevant. When there is no longer a reason to provide a safe and inclusive space to negate negative stereotypes and uplift African American women on campus then the organization can be dissolved by a 4/6 majority vote by the board.

All unspent ASUC funds shall remain the property of the ASUC; all Graduate Assembly funds shall remain the property of the Graduate Assembly. After 5 or more years of inactivity, any privately obtained funds left in accounts will be donated to the ASUC carry forward account.