

CONSTITUTION OF BLACK STUDENTS IN TECH NEXUS

Article I

Name of the Organization

The Organization shall be known as “BLACK STUDENTS IN TECH NEXUS”, and herein be referred to as “The BSIT Nexus” OR “BLAQ NEXUS” No other name shall be used in the advertisement or representation of the club.

Article II

Purpose of the Organization

The organization shall work towards:

1. Cultivate an environment of inclusivity and support for Black students in Tech disciplines at Carleton University guided by the principle of "lift as you rise," where members uplift and empower each other as they advance in knowledge, and connection, as well as personal and career development.
2. To serve as a foundational first step into our careers, supporting through the transitions from student novice to professional expert, further bridging the network gap between Black student talent and career opportunities across Canada, fostering a community of excellence, collaboration, and success in Tech fields.
3. Providing resources, connection, and a nurturing environment that enables Black students to collaboratively thrive academically, professionally, and personally. The BSIT Nexus aims to foster a culture of mentorship and reciprocity, where experienced members mentor and support newer members, promoting mutual growth, success, and empowerment.

Article III

Structure

1. The General Membership shall be the legislative body of the organization and shall be composed of all members.
2. The Executive shall be the administrative body of the organization and shall be composed of members elected by the General Membership.

Article IV

Membership

1. The Organization’s General Membership shall be open to all students at Carleton University, with a special focus on engaging and supporting students of Black descent and those interested in supporting the Black community and culture.
2. The Organization may grant graduate students at Carleton University and others in the community membership in the Organization, however, they must not have voting rights in elections and must have a membership classification in Article III - Structure.
3. Membership in the organization shall be valid from May to April.
4. Only full-time undergraduate students enrolled at Carleton University may serve on the Executive. Graduate students may only serve a non-voting, advisory capacity.

Article V

Executive

1. The President shall:
 1. Oversee the other executives in the performance of their duties.
 2. Provide updates to executive members and general members about the state of the club and recommend to their consideration such measures they shall judge necessary and expedient.
 3. Represent the Organization in dealings with other organizations, including, but not limited to, external professional organizations, other clubs, Carleton University, and the Carleton University Students' Association.
2. The Vice-President Treasurer shall:
 1. Manage the finances and assets of the club.
 2. Prepare a budget for the Organization each year, or more frequently as events require, and keep records of the financial transactions of the Organization.
 - c. Arrange the funding of social events of the Organization.
 - d. Have signing authority for the Organization.
3. The Executive Head of Social Media and Communications shall:
 1. Manage the organization's social media presence and communication channels, including but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and any other relevant platforms
 - b. Create and curate content to engage members and promote club activities, events, and initiatives. Arrange the funding of social events of the Organization.
 - c. Monitor and respond to messages, inquiries, and feedback received through social media platforms.
 - d. Collaborate with other executives to ensure consistent and effective communication strategies.
4. The Executive Head of Events shall:
 - a. Plan, organize, and execute events and activities for the Organization, including but not limited to, workshops, seminars, social gatherings, and networking events.
 - b. Coordinate with other executives, members, and external partners to ensure successful event logistics, promotion, and participation.
 - c. Evaluate event outcomes and gather feedback to improve future event planning and execution.
- e. The Representatives for Respective Technology Disciplines shall:
 - a. Serve as liaisons between the club and students within their respective Technology disciplines.
 - b. Represent the interests, concerns, and needs of students in their disciplines within the club's activities and decision-making processes.
 - c. Collaborate with other club executives to ensure inclusive programming and support for students across all Technology disciplines.

Article VI

Meetings

Meetings of the General Membership

1. Meetings of the General Membership can be called:
 1. At the request of the President, for a meeting to be held not less than one week from the date of publication of the notice; or

2. At the request of the Executive, for a meeting to be held not less than one week from the date of publication of the notice; or
3. At the request of at least 5 general members, for a meeting to be held not less than one week from the date of publication of the notice;
2. A minimum of one meeting of the General Membership must occur per year in the spring for the purpose of elections.
3. Quorum of the General Membership
 - o The presence of at least five members or the majority of members, whichever is less, shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of General Membership for the exercise of its powers

Meetings of the Executive Committee

1. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall
 - a. Be held at regular intervals and are for the purpose of running the club.
 - b. Votes by the Executive Committee on club business shall be declared by a simple majority.

Article VII

Leadership Succession

Elections

The Organization has chosen to run elections for its Leadership Succession. The following are the steps necessary to be taken to run elections.

1. The Club executives will appoint a Succession Officer to run elections for the Club.
 - a. A Succession Officer may be any one (1) of the following individuals:
 - i. A neutral party to all elections being held within the club.
 - ii. A member of the Club's Executive/Oversight Committee.
 - iii. A member of the CUSA Clubs Office.
 - iv. A club member or an external student non-member.
2. All efforts should be made for a Succession Officer to be appointed on a consensus basis in the Executive Committee. When that is not possible, a recorded vote in a first past the post majority or plurality vote winner will be appointed Succession Officer.
3. The Organization will work with the Succession Officer to set the date of final voting membership purchase, campaign start, campaign end, voting start, and voting end.
4. Students-at-large will have the opportunity to join the club before the start of voting.
5. Every voter has the right to cast their ballot in private.
6. During counting, candidates may select an individual who is not a candidate to be present for counting and scrutinizing.
7. Appeals, complaints, or conflicts may be made to the Club's Oversight Committee by way of emailing the Student Groups Administrator.
8. Timeline:
 - a. Day 1 - Announcement of campaign, voting, and results announcement dates
 - b. Day 7 - Start of campaign
 - c. Day 10 - last day to buy voting memberships for the club
 - d. Day 14 - end of campaign
 - e. Day 15 – the start of voting
 - f. Day 16 - end of voting
 - g. Day 17 - Results announced
9. The Club will run a first past-the-post-style election to elect the executive positions of President, Vice-President Treasurer, Executive Head of Social Media and Communications, and Executive Head of Events.

- a. Candidates on the ballot shall be organized alphabetically by last name, with a box to be filled, marked, or checked for a single option/candidate.
- b. A final “no-confidence” option will be offered at the bottom of the ballot.
- c. Any ballot with multiple boxes clearly marked will be discarded as “spoiled.”
- d. Upon counting of the votes, the candidate with the most votes will be considered elected to the position.

Article VIII

Impeachment

- To remove a member, our Club will first consult the CUSA Clubs Membership Removal Committee (MRC)
- The CUSA Clubs Membership Removal Committee (MRC) will advise on the next steps for the club
- Should the CUSA Clubs Membership Removal Committee (MRC) advise that the club proceed with membership removal, the following steps will take place:

Impeachment for Removing an Executive Role:

1. Grounds for impeachment of a club member include any violation of the constitution, the governing documents of CUSA, committing an act (or acts) which negatively affects and/or harms the interests of the clubs and its members, and/or failure to fulfil executive duties.
2. Any member can bring forward a request for impeachment to any executive. Within 10 days of receiving this request, the executive will host a meeting with the general membership. At this meeting, the complaint will be reviewed. The member bringing forward the complaint and the accused executive shall be given time to speak.
3. A vote for impeachment with the general membership will be conducted. The accused executive shall not be permitted to vote. A simple majority will be needed to impeach the executive. Impeachment of an executive results in their removal from office and as a member of the club.

Membership Impeachment:

1. Grounds for impeachment of a club member include any violation of the constitution, the governing documents of CUSA, and committing an act (or acts) which negatively affects and/or harms the interests of the clubs and its members.
2. Any member can bring forward a request for impeachment to any executive. Within 10 days of receiving this request, the executive will host a meeting. At this meeting, the complaint will be reviewed. The individual bringing forward the complaint and the person accused shall be given time to speak.
3. A vote for impeachment within the executive will be conducted. A simple majority of executives will be needed to impeach the member. Impeachment of a member results in their removal as a member of the club.

Article IX

Amendments

1. Any member can propose an amendment to the constitution. This amendment will be presented at the annual general meeting and a vote will take place with the general membership to adopt the new amendment.

2. A simple majority will be required to adopt the new amendment.

Article X

Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Organization, all assets gained through CUSA shall be returned to CUSA and all other assets shall be given to the Ottawa Food Bank.