



# YOUNG AFRICANA LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

## *Africa on African Terms*

Constitution and Bylaws  
Young Africana Leadership Initiative  
Adopted August 1, 2015  
Updated August 17, 2016

### **Article 1: Name and Affiliation**

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be Young Africana Leadership Initiative (YAALI). This organization shall conform to all rules and regulations, present and future, governing students and student organizations established at Howard University.

### **Article 2: Purpose**

Section 1: The Young Africana Leadership Initiative (YAALI) at Howard University aligns with President Obama's YALI initiative committed to investing in development partnerships in Africa. Our mission is to allow young Africana (African American, Caribbean, and Latin American) student leaders to obtain the skills, research and service learning experiences they need to be global citizens. Through learning, researching, and visiting Africa, the origin of civilization, students gain an educational and enlightening experience.

Section 2: YAALI continues Howard University's mission to produce global-minded citizens who can use their talents to search for knowledge and service the global community.

Section 3: YAALI shall work have five focus areas:

- **Education:** The focus of the educational curriculum requirements of YAALI is to inform students about the historical, linguistic, political, social, and economic issues countries in Africa and the African Diaspora face.
- **Research:** The research component of the YAALI program provides structured opportunities for fellows to take part in comparative analysis, critical and creative thinking, and problem-solving around major issues facing the African Diaspora.
- **Travel:** During the Winter and Summer break YAALI participants travel to a country in Africa.
- **Service:** The YAALI program contextualizes learning by linking fellows to local realities, including community engagement and service learning activities. Students are able to reevaluate their values,

vocation, and personal ethics, facilitated by reflective journaling assignments and structured feedback sessions.

- **Praxis:** At the end of the program YAALI fellows are required to share their research with Howard University, the visiting country's Embassy and the general public. Their international travel portfolio consists of a: Research paper, International travel journal, Data collected from international travel sites, and Reflections from workshops and activities.

### **Article 3: Executive Board**

Section 1: The Executive Board of the Chapter will be comprised of the President, Vice – President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Executive Board will manage the affairs of the Chapter in accordance with the By-laws and Constitution for the Chapter.

Section 2: The Executive Board will appoint a Voting Member to the following positions as needed:

- a) Project Coordinator (2x)
- b) Publicity Coordinator
- c) Webmaster
- d) Fundraising Coordinator (2x)
- e) Membership Coordinator

Section 3: Any member of the executive board may recommend a Voting Member for the aforementioned positions. With the the approval by vote of all other board members, that Voting Member may assume the constitutional duties of his or her position.

Section 4: Any Voting member may recommend themselves for a position. In the event that more than one member has been recommended for a position, said position will be decided by vote of the executive board.

Section 5: The term of the office of the Executive Board shall be one year.

Section 6: In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall succeed to that office. Vacancies in the office of the Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be filled by the Executive Board from among the Voting Members.

Section 7: The duties of the elected officers shall be as defined in this Constitution:

- a) **President:** The President shall oversee all activities, serve as a liaison to research affiliates, oversee and chair the Executive Board, oversee and assist the Project Coordinator and Board, submit the Annual Report to Student Activities, and ensure that all chapter resolutions are carried into effect.
- b) **Vice President:** The Vice-President shall assist in overseeing all activities, supervise the election of officers, oversee and assist Publicity Coordinator and Committee, and assumes duties of the President in his/her absence.

c) Executive Treasurer: The Executive Treasurer shall keep all finances of the Chapter in order, keep track of Donors, collect membership dues, oversee and assist the Fundraising Coordinator and Board, and complete an Annual Financial Report to be submitted to Student Activities.

d) Executive Secretary: The Executive Secretary shall assist in administrative management of all meetings, keep all members informed of meetings and activities, record and post meeting minutes, develop quarterly newsletter, and oversee and assist Webmaster and Membership Coordinator and Board

Section 8: The Duties of the appointed officers shall be as defined in the Constitution and as directed by the Executive Board:

a) Project Coordinator: The Project Coordinator will be appointed but the Executive Board as needed to oversee the application for, and implementation of YAALI projects. The project Coordinator shall assist in establishing project teams, scheduled and goals, and be responsible for ensuring that all projects meets YAALI standards.

b) Publicity Coordinator: The Publicity Coordinator will be appointed by the Executive Board as needed to publicize the mission and goals of YAALI, advertise upcoming events and activities oversee and assist the Webmaster in updating the webpage, and develop and distribute Chapter materials to interested individuals.

c) Membership Coordinator: The Membership Coordinator will be appointed by the Executive Board as needed to recruit new Members and maintain a database of current Member information including name, membership status, mailing address, phone numbers, major, and email address; and work in conjunction with the Publicity Coordinator and Secretary to keep members informed of upcoming meetings and activities.

d) Webmaster: The Webmaster will be appointed by the Executive Board as needed to develop and update the YAALI website, and shall work with the Publicity Coordinator and Secretary to make sure the website is updated to reflect the mission of YAALI, post meeting minutes and newsletters, update calendar, and list upcoming activities.

e) Fundraising Coordinator: The Fundraising Coordinator will be appointed by the Executive Board as needed to oversee fundraising activities and shall work with the Treasurer and Secretary to track donation to YAALI.

Section 9: Officers shall have earned at least 6 credit hours in their most recently completed term. This requirement does not apply to first-term freshmen or first term transfer students

Section 10: Officers shall be registered for at least 6 hours currently.

Section 11: Officers shall not be on disciplinary probation

Section 12: Offers shall have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and not have been on probation for the most recently completed term prior to the term of election.

Section 13: A graduate student must pay student fees and meet the same requirement as an undergraduate student with the exception that full time status shall be a minimum of 6 hours with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50.

#### **Article 4: Advisor**

Section 1. The Young African Leadership Initiative (YAALI) shall have a campus advisor, full-time Howard Employee, who shall serve as a liaison between the University and the organization.

#### **Article 5: Membership**

Section 1: All voting members and officers of YAALI must be currently enrolled for at least 6 credits at Howard University and pay student fees.

Section 2: Community members may participate as a Non-Voting Members of the organization.

Section 3: Faculty members may participate as a Non-Voting Member of the organization.

Section 4: Membership in the organization shall not be denied to any students on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or disability.

Section 5: Any Howard student currently enrolled for 6 credits hours may become a Voting Member of the Chapter upon subscribing to the Constitution and Bylaws of the organization and payment of current YAALI dues.

Section 6: Annual dues of \$15 shall be paid by October 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Dues will not be pro-rated if not paid by October 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Article 6: Elections**

Section 1: Executive Board officers shall be elected in a general election by Voting Members through ballot voting.

Section 2: Nominations shall be submitted to the Vice-President by Voting Members.

Section 3: Elections will be held during December. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. New officer terms begin in May of the following calendar year, and last until May of the following year.

#### **Article 7: Meetings**

Section 1: The Executive Board shall meet monthly during the academic year (9 months). Scheduling of these meetings for each academic term shall be determined at the first meeting of each academic term by a consensus of the Officers.

Section 2: A quorum for the executive board meetings shall consist of three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the Executive Board being present.

Section 3: The organization will hold monthly meetings during the academic year (9 months). Scheduling of these meetings will be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 4: A quorum for the organization meetings shall consist of one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of Voting members being present.

#### **Article 8: Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws**

Section 1: This constitution may be amended by two-thirds majority vote at a general body meeting called by any member of the Executive Board. The meeting must meet the seventy-two hour written notice requirement. A copy of the amended constitution will be promptly submitted to OSA for approval.

#### **Article 9: Ratification of the Constitution and Bylaws**

Section 1: This constitution will be ratified by two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote of members present.

Signed and certified, to be effective immediately.

Kaila Holloway  
President/Chairman of Young Africana Leadership Initiative

Justine Lewis  
Vice President/Vice Chairman of Young Africana Leadership Initiative

Samuel D. Lewis  
Executive Treasurer of Young Africana Leadership Initiative

Tamara Sullivan  
Executive Secretary of Young Africana Leadership Initiative