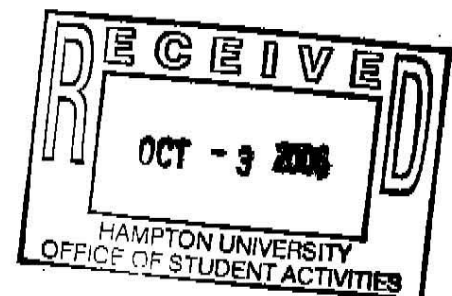


# **Students Promoting Equality, Action & Knowledge**

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006



# **Students Promoting Equality, Action & Knowledge**

## **Constitution and Bylaws**

### **Article I: Name**

The name of the organization shall be Students Promoting Equality, Action & Knowledge, commonly referred to and written as SPEAK.

### **Article II: Mission and Purpose**

#### **Section (1) Mission Statement**

Queers of Color are neglected within a racial group that is already marginalized by the dominant society. We are forced to fight racism and homophobia separately in society at large, as well as racism within the queer community, and homophobia within communities of color. The mission of Students Promoting Equality, Action & Knowledge is to serve as a bridge between the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight communities of Hampton University.

#### **Section (2) Purpose**

The cardinal objective is to combat and destroy institutionalized heterosexism and homophobia, as well as other forms of oppression, in a way that promotes acceptance, tolerance and creates the understanding of equality regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression.

The primary focus includes providing a safe place for students to meet in order to support each other, talk about issues related to sexual orientation, and work together to end homophobia.

### **Article III: Membership**

#### **Section (1) Member Qualification**

Membership in the organization shall be determined by potential members displaying a genuine interest the organization and its purpose by attending at least one of the first five meetings of any term and attending at least one function organized by SPEAK.

Membership in this organization shall be open to all students of Hampton University regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, or national origin. The organization must have at least ten (10) undergraduate members.

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Members must be in good academic standing with the University and comply with all university standards concerning participation in University organizations.

#### **Section (2) Membership Term**

Membership shall be determined on a yearly basis and is renewable every year thereafter as long as said member is a student at Hampton University.

Membership is conferred upon filling out an application, being in good standing with the University, and being affirmed by chapter members present at a regular meeting for the election of members.

Any current member who pays their dues shall be considered in good standing.

#### **Article IV: Financial Organization**

The fiscal year will begin on September 30 and end on April 21.

The dues are set at \$5 per member per semester.

#### **Article V: Executive Committee**

##### **Section (1) Officers**

The executive officers of this organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.

##### **Section (2) Election and Term**

The election of these officers shall be held during the third meeting of each spring semester. The officers of the organization shall be elected by a majority vote of the Members.

The term of office shall be one academic school year. Officers may be elected for no more than two consecutive terms in any given position.

##### **Section (3) Officer Removal and Resignation**

An officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the members for not fulfilling their responsibilities as deemed by the Constitution and bylaws.

Should an office become vacant mid-term, a new officer will be elected by the members of the organization. The officer shall be elected by a majority vote.

##### **Section (6) Qualifications**

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To obtain an executive position, one must be a member in good standing of the organization for at least a semester and have a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0.

#### **Section (7) Advisor**

An advisor will be appointed by simple majority vote of the executive committee of the organization.

### **Article VI: Officer Duties**

#### **Section (1) President**

The president/chairperson shall serve as head of the organization and be responsible for scheduling and preparing activities, meetings and projects and providing leadership and guidance to the organization. The president shall set the agenda and preside over all scheduled meetings.

#### **Section (2) Vice President**

The vice president shall serve in absence of the president, and chair the SPEAK committee. They will perform such duties as assigned by the president.

#### **Section (3) Secretary**

The secretary shall be responsible for taking roll at every scheduled meeting, recording minutes and assuring a smooth flow of the meetings. He/She shall handle paperwork related to, but not limited to, any type of community service, newspaper correspondence, scheduling of transportation, etc.

#### **Section (4) Treasurer**

The treasurer shall be responsible for all financial record keeping. The duties include collecting dues, maintaining an accurate record of the organization's account, and insuring that the required two signatures of the treasurer and the president are acquired before any expenditure is made.

#### **Section (6) Historian**

The historian shall keep accurate and readily available records of all organizational media. Specific duties include updating the organization's website, as well as the pipeline group, and taking photographs to be incorporated in the organizations publicity efforts. He/she shall also compile an end of the year report summarizing events and activities, including pictures of events, and may provide assistance as needed.

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## **Article VII:**

### **Section (1)**

The governing body of the SPEAK shall be the elected officers, the general membership body, and the faculty advisor(s) on all matters concerning SPEAK.

### **Section (2)**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers.

### **Section (3)**

The general membership body shall consist of all members in good standing.

## **Article VIII: Meeting Organization**

### **Section (1)**

There shall be a minimum of 5 meetings per term. They shall be held during the spring and fall semesters. Additional meetings may be called as necessary by the president.

All general meetings shall be open to all members of Hampton University regardless to race, color, creed, religion, sex, physical ability, sexual orientation, or national origin.

### **Section (2) Conduct**

The business of these meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rule of Order.

### **Section (3) Quorum**

The quorum for conducting business shall be 50% of the members of the organization.

### **Section (4) Advisor**

The advisor to the organization must be either a faculty/staff member or administrator of the University. The advisor shall provide guidance and administrative assistance in the preparation of a program of events to be pursued by the organization in forthcoming terms. The advisor shall attend all meetings of this organization each year.

## **Article IX: Colors and Symbols**

### **Section (1) Symbol**

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The official emblem for the SPEAK shall be an illustration of a bull-horn with rainbow-colored sound waves emanating from the device.

#### Section (2) Colors

The colors of the SPEAK shall be the colors of the rainbow (purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red). These are the official gay pride flag colors.

#### Article X: Amendments

Any member submitting a proposal for change may amend this constitution during any regular meeting. The amendment must pass by a 2/3-majority vote.

Sia Mensah, President  
Sia Mensah Oct 3/2006  
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Mr. LLOREN A. Foster, Ph.D.  
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10/3/2006