S21RS SGCR No. 25 (Black Caucus Constitution)

Javin Bowman
Fifty Third Student Senate
of
Louisiana State University
AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION OF
Two Thousand and Twenty-One

S.G.C.R. 25
ENROLLED
AUTHORED BY SENATOR(S):
BOWMAN

A Concurrent Resolution

To establish the LSU Student Government Black Caucus

1 WHEREAS, The LSU Student Government has the authority to
2 establish Student Government Caucuses upon request to the
3 Speaker of the Senate; and

4 WHEREAS, The LSU Student Government Black Caucus will
5 improve the representation of Black and minority identifying
6 students on campus; and

7 WHEREAS, Upon passage of this SGCR, the Student Government
8 Black Caucus Constitution reads as follows:

9 Preamble

10 We, the students of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and
11 Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in order to provide an
12 officially recognized student organization to identify and represent
13 Black student interests; to promote minority student participation in
14 the overall policy and decision-making processes of the university; to
15 enhance the quality and scope of diversity and opportunity at the

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university; and to promote the general welfare of minorities and the
Student Body, do hereby adopt and establish this constitution of the
LSU Student Government Black Caucus.

**ARTICLE I: The Black Caucus**

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be The Louisiana State
University Student Government Black Caucus at Louisiana State
University, Baton Rouge campus.

Section 2. The general purpose of the organization shall be to:

(A) Section 2.A. To represent the concerns and interests of African
and African American identifying Louisiana State University
students and organizations;

(B) Section 2.B. To serve as a liaison of the African and African
American identifying and minority communities to student
government, University and all other entities;

(C) Section 1.C. To empower the student body by providing a
medium through which students may actively engage in issues
impacting the minority Louisiana State University community;

(D) Section 1.D. To provide and promote access to programs
for the betterment and enrichment of the University in regard to
diversity;

(E) Section 1.E. To preserve and advance the academic and
collegiate experience of the minority student body;

(F) Section 1.F. To promote diversity and cultural awareness in the
student body.

**ARTICLE II: Basic Policies**

Section 1. The basic policies of the organization shall be:

(A) The organization shall be non-commercial, non-sectarian, and
non-partisan;

(B) The organization shall act as the official voice of its members
only, and not all of Student Government.
(C) The organization shall act on behalf of any minority student or organization regardless of membership status when asked to do so;

(D) Act on matters that are considered relevant to the needs or wants of all minority identifying students and organizations and if its nature might be detrimental to the organization or its members if not otherwise addressed;

(E) The name of the caucus or its members in their official capacities shall not be used in connection with commercial concerns, Partisan interests, or for any purpose and objective not appropriately related to the caucus;

(F) The Caucus shall operate within the student government to support the principles and missions of the University to improve the well-being of the student.

Section 2. The limitations of the caucus shall be:

(A) The caucus may not pass or enact legislation on its own, but can vote on pieces of legislation or initiatives to bring to the Student Senate floor on behalf of the caucus;

(B) The caucus is not limited to operating only in partnership with the University or Student Government;

(C) The caucus may cooperate with any organization or agency but the caucus or its members are not permitted to commit to any organizations or matters that bind the caucus.

Section 3. More extensive policies shall be laid out in the Black Caucus Bylaws.

ARTICLE III: Composition

Section 1. The Black Caucus will consist of:

(A) Twelve (12) voting members, as outlined in the Student Government Bylaws.

(B) Up to ten (10) liaison members, aka. non-voting members, of the caucus, all of which must be part-time or full-time students at LSU-Baton Rouge, may be appointed through a simple majority vote of the Black Caucus official members as liaison
members to ensure that many organizations have input in decisions of the Caucus.

(C) The LSU Student Body President and Speaker of the LSU Student Senate will serve as ex officio, non-voting members of the Caucus. They will only submit a vote as a unified member in the case of a tie on any vote the Caucus makes.

Section 2. Any LSU student who subscribes to the mission and policies of the Caucus may apply to be a member of the Caucus, subject only to compliance with the provisions of its bylaws and constitution.

Section 3. All official members must attend bi-weekly meetings and be present to vote.

ARTICLE IV: Appointment and Confirmation

Section 1. The Speaker of the Senate in consultation with the acting President and Vice President of the Caucus shall nominate three (3) senators from the Legislative Branch as voting members.

Section 2. The Student Body President in consultation with the acting President and Vice President of the Caucus shall nominate three (3) members of the Executive Branch as voting members.

Section 3. The acting President and Vice President of the Caucus in consultation with the Student Body President and Speaker of the Senate shall nominate six (6) additional voting members from applications received.

Section 4. In the event that the Caucus is being created or re-certified, then the petitioner shall serve as the one to consult on the nominations in lieu of an acting President and/or Vice President. The six (6) voting members, after being nominated and confirmed, will then vote and nominate six (6) additional voting members to the Caucus.

Section 5. All voting members must be approved by the Senate Committee on Rules and by simple majority vote (½ plus one) of the Student Senate present and voting.

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Section 6. The Caucus may fill vacancies at any time during the year but must go through the same membership process based on type (Voting or Liaison). Liaison members may be approved at the discretion of the Caucus at anytime.

ARTICLE V: Terms of Office

Section 1. All members of the Caucus will serve terms concurrent to the student body president except Student senate member(s) will serve until the end of their student body elected term unless re-elected that same academic year.

Section 2. All Members of the Caucus must reapply after their appointed term has ended. Members shall be selected upon the needs of the student body and no one is guaranteed membership.

Section 3. All members of the Caucus shall be considered members of Student Government and are responsible for abiding by all codes and policies of the Caucus and Student Government.

ARTICLE VI: Meetings

Section 1. Regulations of caucus meetings shall be:

(A) Regular meetings of the organizations shall be held bi-weekly during the academic year;

(B) The dates shall be set for regular meetings at the first regular meeting of each semester, unless otherwise provided by the organization or President by a change of date no less than one (1) day prior to the date of the scheduled meeting;

(C) Any active member can request convening of a special or emergency meeting by contacting the President.

Section 2. Quorum is necessary to conduct all business whereas a simple majority of official members present will constitute a quorum for any scheduled meeting.

Section 3. The privilege of introducing motions, debating and voting shall be limited to official members. Pursuant to Robert’s Rules, an SGCR 25
ARTICLE VII: Termination

Section 1. Harmful behavior

(A) All members shall be called to account for behavior considered harmful to the organization or the student body;
(B) If there is reason to believe a member is accountable for harmful behavior, they may have their membership revoked resulting in removal indefinitely;
(C) Harmful is defined as unethical behavior toward the organization, its members, or the student body. A hearing may be held at the discretion of the Legislative branch of student government or the Caucus itself.

Section 2. Grounds for membership being revoked/removal.

(A) All members must comply to the codes and policies of the University, Student Government and the Black Caucus as stated in this document;
(B) Failure to do so may result in immediate and permanent removal from the caucus.


(A) Any member of the Caucus can be subject to removal upon recommendation of the Student Body President, Speaker, Supreme Justice or member(s) of the caucus;
(B) Removal will be upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Caucus and will be permanent resulting in revoking of membership indefinitely;
(C) An member, officer, or committee chairperson shall be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the official members;
(D) An official member may call for a vote at a regular meeting to remove any member at any time;
(E) A vote, however, may not take place less than seven (7) days after the recommendation;
(F) Official members must be given written notice of a recall vote no less than five (2) working days prior to the taking of the vote. An officer may end the recall proceedings by resigning.

ARTICLE VIII. Executive Power

Section 1. The executive power of the Caucus shall be vested in a President, and Vice President elected by the Official members of the caucus as outlined in the Black Caucus Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX: Finances

Section 1. The organization shall maintain a fund for the purpose of hosting and conducting forums, honors programs, etc., as necessary to promote the objectives and initiatives of the organization and to recognize contributions, service, and achievements of individuals and groups deserving of special recognition.

Section 2. Neither officers nor members of the Caucus shall have any authority to borrow money or incur any indebtedness or liability in the name of or on behalf of this organization.

ARTICLE X: Amendments

Section 1. Grounds for amendments shall be:

(A) This constitution may be amended by any regular meeting of the organization by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the official members present and voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given at the previous meeting or written notice of no less than five (5) working days prior to the vote.

(B) A committee may be appointed to submit a revised constitution for the existing constitution only by a majority vote of active members at a meeting of the organization, or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive officers. The requirements for
adoption of a revised constitution shall be the same as in the case of an amendment.

(C) All amendments must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Student Senate.

WHEREAS, Upon passage of this SGCR, the Student Government Black Caucus Bylaws will read as follows:

**ARTICLE I: Order and Membership**

Section 1. The most recent updated version of the Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases in which they are applicable.

Section 2. Applications for the Caucus will open for all (12) voting members on March 1, 20XX. Applications will close the day election results for the LSU Student Government student body President and Vice President elections are announced to the public.

Section 3. The organization may hold an annual membership drive, but members can be admitted to membership at the discretion of the Caucus.

Section 4. All members must reapply each year to be appointed to the Caucus.

**Article II: Executive Officers**

Section 1. The President of the Black Caucus shall have the following responsibilities and powers:

(A) The President of the Black Caucus will be responsible for the caucus’ upholding of its bylaws and its policies in conjunction with the university and student government;

(B) They shall preside at all meetings of the organization; shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed in this constitution or as assigned to them by the organization or by the student body;

(C) The President shall coordinate the work of the caucus with other organizations in order that its objectives may be accomplished;

(D) The President shall provide a copy of the agenda to the members and notify the members of time, place and date of all meetings;

(E) The President shall call a special or emergency meeting when necessary in order to address immediate concerns or needs.

(F) The President shall report to the Student Body President and Speaker of the Senate regarding governing document changes, event programming and legislation creation.

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Section 2. The Vice President of the Black Caucus shall have the following responsibilities and powers:

(A) The vice president shall serve as an aide to the president and be responsible for the upkeep of members and events held on behalf of the caucuses.

(B) They will also keep minutes and shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability to serve.

(C) Other duties may be assigned when necessary by the President.

(D) They shall assist the presiding president in the interpretation of the constitution of the organization and shall ensure that all meetings are orderly, and that parliamentary procedures are in accord with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

(E) The Vice President shall report to the Student Body President and Speaker of the Senate regarding governing document changes, event programming and legislation creation.

Section 3. Election of the Black Caucus President and Vice President.

(A) The President and Vice President shall be elected by a simple majority (½) of the voting members of the Caucus at the first meeting of the Caucus.

(B) The terms of the President and Vice President will assume duty immediately and follow the terms of membership stated in this document.

(C) The Caucus shall reserve the right to hold an election to elect a new President and/or Vice President by a super majority (¾), provided that notice of the proposed election shall be given at the previous meeting or written notice of no less than five (5) working days prior to the election.

Section 4. Vacancy in the Office of President or Vice President

(A) If a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Caucus President, an election to fill the office in accordance with these Bylaws shall be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

(B) If a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Caucus Vice President, the President may choose to call an election or may appoint another Caucus member to hold the office until expiration of the original term, unless a simple majority of the Caucus members object.

(C) If a vacancy in the offices of President and Vice President occur at the same time, the Chief Justice of the University Court shall administer the election of the President.

Section 5. The newly elected officers shall be formally installed at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the academic year.
ARTICLE III. Committees

Section 1. At any time the President of the Caucus may assign committees to delegate its issues or initiatives and meet at the discretion of the needs of the body (but not less than once a month).

Section 2. Standing and Special Committees

(A) Such standing and special committees shall be created by the President as may be required to promote the objectives and interests of the organization;

(B) Each Committee must have a Chairperson who is not the Caucus President or Vice President.

(C) The chairperson of the committee shall be an official member appointed by a two-third (2/3) vote of the caucus. Their term of office shall be one (1) year;

(D) No person may be the chairperson of more than one (1) committee per appointed term (one year).

Section 3. Liaison members may sit on a committee at the approval of the Caucus President.

ARTICLE IV: Amendments

Section 1. Grounds for amendments shall be:

(A) Amendments to these Bylaws may be at any regular meeting of the organization by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the official members present and voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given at the previous meeting or written notice of no less than five (5) working days prior to the vote.

(B) A committee may be appointed to submit a revised set of bylaws for the existing bylaws only by a majority vote of active members at a meeting of the organization, or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive officers. The requirements for adoption of a revised set of bylaws shall be the same as in the case of an amendment.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE, that the LSU Student Government establish the Student Government Black Caucus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SUBMITTED TO the Student Body President, Vice President, Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, Speaker of the Student Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore, and Student Senate.

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE by a simple majority (one-half plus one) vote of the LSU Student Senate and signature by the Student Body President, upon lapse of time for presidential action, or if vetoed by the President and subsequently approved by the Senate, on the date of such approval.

APPROVED:

MARINA COLE
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: 2/11/21

STONE COX
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE: 2/11/21