

Greek Council of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Constitution

PREAMBLE

We, the Greek organizations on the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College campus, believe that the presence of a well-organized, structured Greek community will provide a strong, positive influence to the primary goal of this institution. We feel that with proper involvement and cooperation from all groups on campus, the Greek system can become an integral link in the development of all ABAC students. For these reasons, we establish this constitution for the exercise of a responsible self-government of Greek affairs within the student body.

ARTICLE I: NAME & PURPOSE

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Greek Council of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Section 2: Purpose

- A. To serve as a liaison between Greek organizations affiliated with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, hereafter referred to as ABAC, and the administration, faculty, and non-Greek students at ABAC.
- B. To provide leadership and regulation of Greek organizations (fraternities and sororities) affiliated with ABAC.
- C. To promote superior scholarship as basic to intellectual achievement.
- D. To act in accordance with national and institutional policies, as well as State and Federal laws.
- E. To provide a forum for discussion of questions of interest to ABAC and the fraternity/sorority world.
- F. To further leadership education and development on campus.
- G. To encourage social service and philanthropic activities for the development of Greek members and the Tifton community.
- H. To promote Greek life both on campus and in the community.

ARTICLE II: RESPONSIBILITY

Section 1: Responsibility

In order to achieve the goals outlined in the Preamble and Article I, the Greek Council of ABAC takes the responsibility upon itself to ensure the establishment, promotion, and attainment of the highest standards of conduct and performance through its implementation of inter-Greek programming. Self-regulation and self-discipline are essential parts of this living experience and are to be exercised by all members of the organization to the end of the fullest possible individual and group development.

ARTICLE III: AUTHORITY

Section 1: Scope of Authority

- A. The Greek Council shall be the officially recognized organization for communication between the ABAC administration, student body, faculty, alumni, the community, and Greek organizations.

- B. The Greek Council shall be the officially recognized structure for communication among Greek organizations.
- C. Only those Greek organizations recognized by and in good standing with the Greek Council of ABAC will be able to participate in the organized Greek programs and receive the benefits of being recognized by the ABAC administration.
- D. The Greek Council has the authority to recommend policy in accordance with and with respect to applicable Board of Regents and ABAC policies and procedures.
- E. The Greek Council has the responsibility to inform the ABAC administration if a member of a Greek organization is in violation of that organization's national by-laws.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

Section 1: Membership

Member organizations must be either local chapters of men's fraternities or women's sororities recognized by the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC), or a Greek-letter organization which the Dean of Students and this Council agree will fall under the jurisdiction of this Council.

Local chapters/organizations must apply to Greek Council for membership, be accepted by a 2/3 vote, and be approved by the Dean of Students. After acceptance, new chapters may send three voting representatives and an advisor.

Membership may be revoked if recommended by the Greek Council or the ABAC administration and passed by a 2/3 vote of the Council. Members of the fraternity or sorority in question will be excused from the voting process in such circumstances.

Good academic standing of member organizations is important to the health of Greek life at ABAC, and as such, all member organizations of the Greek Council of ABAC must maintain an average 2.25 Institutional GPA each semester. Member organizations in non-compliance for two consecutive semesters will be subject to Council and administrative discipline. The recommended discipline for not achieving GPA requirements is:

1st Offense: One semester warning. Organization is not allowed to vote in Greek Council.

2nd Offense: One semester probation. Organization is not allowed to vote in Greek Council or hold Greek social events. Organization is still allowed to recruit and pledge members.

3rd Offense: De-recognition of Greek organization by ABAC.

Section 2: Representation

Each member organization shall be represented by three elected members and one advisor. All elected representatives are required to attend scheduled meetings. Each representative may have one alternate approved by the Council. Representatives will serve for an entire academic year unless otherwise allowed by the Council.

Section 3: Non-Greek Membership Representation

The following will serve on the Council, with full voting rights, although they will not hold office:

A: One representative filled by the Dean of Students or a member of the ABAC Staff appointed by the Dean of Students.

B: One representative from the ABAC Alumni Association appointed by the President of the Alumni Association.

C: One non-Greek ABAC student appointed by the Dean of Students.

D: One ABAC faculty member appointed by the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. This member may come from the faculty at-large.

Section 4: General Voting Rights

All representatives of the Greek Council shall have one equal vote. In cases of a tie, the President of the Greek Council shall decide the matter in the best interests of the Council.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS; ELECTIONS & RECALL

Section 1: Executive Board

The Executive Board of Greek Council shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The officers shall be delegated from fraternities/sororities holding regular membership in the Greek Council of ABAC. The officers shall serve for a term of one academic year. Any officer failing to perform his/her duties as outlined may be removed.

Section 2: Election of Officers

Officers shall be elected by the voting members of the Greek Council through secret ballot each year as the final order of business at the final meeting of each spring semester. The transfer of offices to the newly elected officers will become effective two weeks after the elections.

Section 3: Eligibility of Office

No student shall be eligible to hold an office in Greek Council unless he/she meets the following requirements:

A: Be an active member in good standing of a member organization of Greek Council, and

B: Have an Institutional GPA of at least a 2.25, and

C: Be willing and able to fulfill all the requirements of the office, including time commitments.

Section 4: Assuming Offices

Officers shall assume their duties at the first regular meeting following the appointment of officers. During the interim, retiring officers shall fulfill the duties of the office that they are vacating.

Section 5: Recall of Officers

Any officers may be recalled at any regular meeting by a 2/3 vote of the Council, provided that the motion of the recall is announced at least one meeting in advance.

Section 6: Vacancy of Offices

If any officer position is vacated during the regular term of office, all of the representatives on Greek Council, including the representatives from the previous officer's organization, who meet the criterion in Section 3, will be eligible for that position. Nominations will be taken as soon as possible, and elections will be held at the meeting following the nominations. A nominee will assume the vacant office upon a vote of simple majority.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of this Council shall be held at least once every month during the academic year, at a regular time and place convenient to all current representatives. The President, upon request by three members of the Council, may call special meetings.

Roll call will be taken at all meetings. Consistent absences by any member of the Council may result in removal from the Council. Consistent absences are defined as two consecutive missed meetings, and/or three total missed meetings during the academic year. A quorum will consist of 50% + 1 of the elected representatives and will be necessary to conduct all official meetings.

Section 2: Postponement

Meetings may be postponed by affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members. Meetings may be postponed no later than 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VII: HAZING

Section 1: Hazing

“Hazing” is defined under the Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that—

- I. is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization; and
- II. causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including—
 - a. whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone’s body, or similar activity;
 - b. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
 - c. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
 - d. causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
 - e. any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;
 - f. any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
 - g. any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

ARTICLE VIII: NON-DISCRIMINATION

Section 1: Non-Discrimination

The Board of Regents stipulates that no student of the University system, on the ground of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia or any of its several institutions now in existence or hereafter established.

ARTICLE IX: RULES OF ORDER & AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Rules of Order

The Greek Council of ABAC shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except in matters specifically provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2: Amendments

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Greek Council of ABAC, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing at the preceding meeting.