

BY-LAWS OF THE BLACK AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

University of Delaware

Approved by BAMS, December 13, 2005

Revised February 13, 2006

This document describes the policies and procedures by which the Black American Studies Program (“BAMS”) of the University of Delaware operates to achieve its mission. These by-laws are subject to and consistent with those of the University of Delaware and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Mission

The Black American Studies Program is an academic unit within the College of Arts and Sciences whose mission is to analyze, examine, and interpret the life experiences of African-Americans and the African Diaspora. BAMS is dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding through interdisciplinary study of the arts, history, law, humanities, the behavioral and social sciences and other academic disciplines. Specific aims include: 1 promoting excellence in multidisciplinary research and scholarship regarding African-Americans and the African Diaspora; 2. providing service to the University community, the people of the state of Delaware, and larger society through the dissemination of information and programs and projects relevant to people of African heritage in the Diaspora; 3. offering a rich and varied curriculum of courses, scholarly and learning experiences regarding African-Americans and the African Diaspora for students at the University of Delaware and related institutions.

II. BLACK AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM FACULTY

Faculty participating in the Black American Studies Program are classified as core faculty, faculty with joint appointments, affiliated faculty and secondary faculty.

A. Core Faculty are faculty members with their tenure lines located in BAMS.

B. Joint Faculty members are faculty members whose primary appointments are in other academic units but who also hold an appointment in BAMS. Joint appointments shall be for three-year renewable terms.. Faculty holding joint appointments shall be actively involved in scholarship pertinent to the Black American Studies Program, teach at least two courses or cross-listed courses every three years, serve as advisors to Black American Studies students, and engage in service activities within the Black American Studies Program.

C. Affiliated faculty include faculty members in other departments who do not hold joint appointments with BAMS but who teach courses cross-listed with BAMS.

D. Secondary faculty are university professional staff who have teaching appointments in BAMS.

Faculty members responsible for the governance of the Black American Studies Program include Core and Joint faculty members (hereinafter "BAMS Faculty.") BAMS faculty shall be eligible to vote on all program matters.

II. GOVERNANCE

a. Governance of the Black American Studies Program is conducted by the BAMS Faculty. The BAMS Faculty are responsible for activities and obligations customarily assigned by the University to departmental faculty. These responsibilities include, among other things, faculty appointments, curriculum oversight, and recommendations for promotion and tenure.

b. Affiliated faculty may participate in program policy and policy deliberations and are eligible to serve on all BAMS committees except the Executive and the Promotion and Tenure Committees.

Standing Committees:

A. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Black American Studies Director, and five members of the BAMS faculty who will be appointed by the Director for three year terms. The Executive Committee assists the Director in the operation of the BAMS Program. These duties will include advising the Director regarding committee assignments, making recommendations for program activities, making recommendations for hiring, promotion and tenure, and addressing issues that require faculty advice between faculty meetings. The Executive Committee will meet at least twice each semester.

The Executive Committee, with the advice of the Curriculum Committee, shall also be responsible for evaluating and recommending new courses which will be submitted to the BAMS faculty for approval. The Executive Committee shall provide oversight for the curriculum regarding course offerings, course sequencing and requirements for the major and the minor. The committee will also be responsible for recommending curriculum changes when such changes are deemed appropriate.

B. Promotion and Tenure Committee

The procedures and policies for promotion and tenure are specified in the Promotion and Tenure document of the BAMS program.

C. Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee shall have responsibility for developing and monitoring the curriculum and recommending modifications and/or additions to the BAMS faculty.

D. Other Committees

The Director may appoint faculty to other committees as needed.

Faculty Meetings

BAMS Faculty shall convene at least two meetings each semester and on other occasions scheduled by the Director or the Executive Committee.

A quorum shall consist of one-half of the BAMS Faculty members. In the absence of a quorum, ballots may be delivered by mail to the Black American Studies Faculty. Proxies may be accepted but only if they have been delivered to the Director prior to taking the vote.

III. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Director

A. The Director is appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and serves at the pleasure of the Dean, Provost and President of the University. A search committee constituted by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences makes recommendations to the Dean and to the BAMS Executive Committee which makes recommendations to the BAMS Faculty. Following a vote of the BAMS faculty, the Executive Committee communicates that vote along with its recommendation to the Dean who makes the appointment.

B. The Director serves as the chief administrative officer of the Black American Studies Program and is responsible for the overall functioning of the academic and service components of the Program, which include, among other things, managing the Program's budget, overseeing campus and community programming and supervising staff.

C. The Director appoints the members of all Program committees and will develop work load agreements and annual evaluations of all Core Faculty and staff.

IV. BY-LAW REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a vote of the majority of the BAMS faculty.