Constitution of Indiana University - Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (IU-SACNAS) Student Chapter

Preamble

Indiana University - Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (IU-SACNAS) Student Chapter

SACNAS is a society of scientists dedicated to advancing Hispanics/Chicanos, Native Americans and any other underrepresented minorities in science. We are a national nonprofit organization of individuals and organizations interested in quality science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research, teaching, leadership, and policy.

Mission

IU-SACNAS fosters the success of Hispanic/Chicano and Native American scientists—from college students to professionals—to attain advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership in science through mentoring.

Goals/Outcomes

1. To further the work of, to improve the effectiveness of, and to enhance the public understanding of and appreciation for Chicanos, Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other underrepresented minorities in science;
2. To cooperate with other individuals, organizations, clubs, and other groups whose purposes include the achievement of public understanding for Chicanos, Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other underrepresented minorities in the sciences;
3. To promote student recruitment and retention of Chicanos, Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other underrepresented minorities in science at Indiana University; and
4. To provide a forum for students from different science majors and science related majors to come together for academic, community service and social activities at Indiana University.
5. To provide mentoring to Chicanos, Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other underrepresented minorities in science

Article I: Membership

No person shall be denied membership because of major, ethnicity, gender, religion, economic background, sexual orientation, etc. Membership shall be open to currently enrolled students, faculty and staff at Indiana University, and to enrolled students at other Indiana University campuses and neighboring community college(s).

The chapter advisor is a non-student member of the organization, with all right and privileges therein, except for the right to vote or hold office.
Section 1. Termination of Membership:

1. Shall any member have knowledge that an officer is not fulfilling his/her duties or that an officer has acted or participated in activities that violate the mission of the chapter, he/she may call a meeting to explore charges.

2. A two-thirds vote, excluding officer under investigation, is needed for a removal.

3. Upon removal, nominations shall proceed as indicated in Article VIII.

Article II: University Compliance

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state and federal laws.

Article III: Executive Officers

Section 1. Officers

President: Delegates initiatives. Initiates and presides over meetings. Oversees all group activities and assists in leadership development of membership.

Vice President: Assumes presidential responsibilities in the absence of the president. Develops and coordinates outreach activities with the National Liaison.

Secretary: Maintains accurate attendance and membership records and keeps minutes.

Treasurer: Maintains and manages finances and keeps accurate financial records for both Indiana University and the National Organization. Prepares and implements chapter budget.

National Liaison: Primary contact with the SACNAS National Office. Submits Chapter Annual Report and conducts communication with the National Office. Reports chapter information such as changes to by-laws, board members, contact information, etc. to National Office. Keeps current with literature and reports current events from National Office. Coordinates all activities involving National Organization such as the annual SACNAS National Conference.

Section 1. Resignations

1. An officer may resign from office at any time, by giving written notice to the president or vice president. The written notice of resignation must be received and acknowledged by the governing body of officers.

2. During a meeting when a resignation is presented, nominations will be taken to fill the vacancy and voting procedures will be conducted as stated in Article V with the exception of Section 3.1.
Article IV: Advisor

1. The advisors must include a permanent Indiana University – Bloomington faculty/staff member and said person can co-advise with a graduate student with dissertator status or a postdoctoral researcher who may take the “lead” advisor responsibilities.

2. The advisor may not vote but can offer advice to the organization.

Article V: Quorum, Meetings

Section 1. Quorum:

A quorum must consist of at least forty percent of all membership and a majority of the officers.

Section 2. General Meetings:

1. All members are required to attend regular meetings, in order to maintain voting rights.

2. Meeting agendas shall be prepared by the president and secretary.

Article VI: Elections

Section 1. Nominations:

1. Individuals seeking nomination must be active chapter members.

2. The Secretary shall record nominations and make available for all active members to consider the candidates.

3. Nominations shall be held no later than one month prior to the last meeting of the academic year.

Section 2. Elections/Voting:

1. Elections shall be held three weeks prior to the last meeting of the academic year.

2. All active members are eligible to vote.

3. Voting shall be conducted as a secret ballot and tally shall be conducted in the absence of the said candidates.

4. Ballots shall be tallied by the advisor(s). In the case of a tie, the top candidates will participate in a run-off election, to be held the same day.

5. Officer terms shall be one academic year.
**Article VII: Non-Hazing**

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

**Article VIII: Dues & Budgets**

**Section I Dues:**

1. Dues are not required for chapter level membership however in order to be recognized as a member at the national level each member must pay annual dues.

2. Members shall pay dues to the national organization. See details: [http://sacnas.org/get-involved/membership/benefits](http://sacnas.org/get-involved/membership/benefits)

**Article IX: Finances**

1. The treasurer and president shall be responsible for preparing a budget every academic year.

2. All distributions of funds shall be approved by the president and treasurer.

**Article X: Personal Gain Clause**

This organization shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation from for-profit ventures or partnerships if acting as a representative of a student organization.

**Article XI: Amendments**

Amendments must be submitted in writing one-week prior to voting at a regularly scheduled meeting. By-laws may be amended at any regular meeting with a two-thirds vote.

These by-laws may be amended at any regular business meeting of the organization by two-third votes of active members, provided it has followed Article X.1.

**Article XII: Ratification**

If more than a majority of those present is desired to ratify this constitution, then this article must be included.