

Dark Arts Performing Dance Company Constitution

Preamble

We, the students of the University of Delaware, do hereby form the organization known as the Dark Arts Performing Dance Company for the purpose of:

Article I

Name

The organization shall be known as the Dark Arts Performing Dance Company.

Article II

Object

The Object of this Organization shall be to:

- Expand cultural awareness at the university through teaching and performances of African based dance forms

Article III

Qualifications for Membership

Any full-time matriculated undergraduate student of the University of Delaware who agrees with the object and purpose of this organization may become a member.

Article IV

Officers and Elections

Section 1: President

This organization shall have a President with duties of calling and running meetings and handling day-to-day affairs. The President shall also be artistic advisor in matters of stage performance, practice schedules and costuming.

Section 2: Vice- President

The Vice-President shall serve the role of president if the president is absent, unable to serve the duties of president, or if the president resigns. The Vice- President will mainly assist the President in the performing of his/her duties.

Section 3: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all group expenditures and revenues. The Treasurer shall maintain all group ledgers.

Section 4: Secretary

The Secretary shall record the events of all meetings of this Organization and shall maintain minutes of those meetings. The Secretary shall take attendance of those present at the group meetings as necessary. The Secretary will also be in charge of all forms of communication within and outside the group, including but not limiting to email, voice mail, advertising, etc. He or she is responsible for creating the fliers for various events.

Section 5: Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian is responsible for keeping track of time and order in meetings as well as in practice. This position holds the primary responsibility to enforce sanctions for lateness. The Parliamentarian is responsible for recording action items in meetings, and if the company holds a dance exhibition, he is or she is responsible for the preparation.

Section 6: Historian

The Historian is responsible for keeping documentation of all events that the company participates in and any awards that it receives. The Historian is also responsible for knowing the history of the company and being the liaison between current company members and alumni. If the company holds a dance exhibition, the Historian works with the Parliamentarian for the preparation of the event.

Section 7: Elections

Elections for officers shall be held at least once per year. Only full-time matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware may vote in the elections.

Article V *Meetings*

The Organization shall meet at least once per academic semester, as necessary. The President begins each meeting, and the Executive Board follows the President's announcements with their agenda. After the above parties speak, the Company responds to and proposes relevant concerns and issues.

There will also be a number of social meetings throughout the academic semester, exclusively arranged to encourage bonding within the company.

The Executive Board will hold private meetings as appropriate.

Article VI
Bylaws

Section 1: Authority

The Organization shall establish bylaws to carry out the policies set forth in this constitution.

Section 2: Approval of Bylaws

The majority of the Executive Board of those present and voting shall approve bylaws and changes in bylaws.

Article VII
Procedure

The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order, Revised Edition shall govern the society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws or the special rules of order of this society.

Article VIII
Ratification

This Constitution shall be ratified by two-thirds affirmative vote of the membership of this Organization and the Student Activities Office shall approve the regulations of this Organization.

Article IX
Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution shall require approval of two-thirds of the entire membership of this Organization. Advance notice must be made to all members of proposed changes to the Constitution.

Article X
Bylaws

Section 1: Auditions

Auditions are required for admission into the company.

Auditions are held once per academic year. The auditions must be strictly confidential; all voting, situation, opinions expressed must be kept confidential. No Company members shall assist any potential auditioners in any way, shape, or form.

In regard to auditions for particular concert numbers (for existing members): selective dances require all participants to audition in order to practice/perform the dance. Maintaining status as a dancer in the particular dance is at the discretion of the choreographer.

Section 2: Attendance

An excused absence is a special situation that prohibits a member from attending practice and that is expressed to the President. If the President cannot be contacted, then a contact should be made in the following:

- Vice- President
- Secretary
- Executive Board Member

The President makes the final decision on an excused absence.

An excused absence may include (but is not limited to): making up a lab, meeting with a study group, administrating another program, or sickness. The “going home” excuse will also only work to a certain point, although particular circumstances are assessed individually. During the fall semester, Company members are allowed two “go homes” for the weekend, with prior consent from the President. During the spring semester, Company members are allowed only one.

An unexcused absence is one not expressed to the President, etc., and is not approved as an excused and acceptable absence.

In the event of excessive, unexcused absences (or lateness) from a member, the following repercussions will be taken:

- 1st unexcused lateness/absence will result in sanction made by the Parliamentarian
- 2nd unexcused lateness/absence will result in sanction made by the Parliamentarian in addition to “Sandy’s workout”
- 3rd unexcused lateness/absence will result in sanction made by the Parliamentarian and exemption from a dance (either as a performer or choreographer).

Section 3: Lateness

A member is responsible to provide proper notification to the President if that person is going to be late. However, excused lateness does not include “leaving late,” and being “stuck in traffic” will only work to a certain degree.

If the President cannot be contacted the order of notification follows that which is stated above in Article X, Section 2. Notification of lateness should be given, at the latest, 1 hour prior to practice or as soon as possible.

In the event of excessive lateness the procedure shall be the same as that followed for excessive absences, which is stated in Article X, Section 2.

Section 3: Hiatus

The person must be a member of the Organization for a full academic year before a Hiatus can be taken. A Hiatus is a period of time, maximum being a semester, in which a member is excused from duties involving practices and performances. During this time the member is still required to pay dues and fundraise. Hiatus is the duration of a semester, but can be shorter depending on the situation.

Section 4: Alumni

All previous members of Dark Arts who have graduated from the university will always be recognized and respected as Dark Arts Alumni. However, there are certain guidelines which must be upheld:

- Performance in annual concert is prohibited.
- Respect prearranged practice time
- Notify the president if alumni will be attending practice
- Respect the decisions of the current members and choreographers
- During auditions, the swaying of votes is prohibited. Alumni will be notified about the new information when the decisions are finalized.
- Any questions, ideas, or concerns should be brought to the attention of the E-board.

Section 5: Communication

Any problems, comments, concerns, etc., that a member would have, should be expressed in the following order:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Executive Board Member
- Member

Section 6: Cellular Phones

The use of a cellular phone or other technological communication device is strictly prohibited during practice/performance time.

The President of the Company is the only member permitted to have his or her cell phone turned on during practice time.

If any member is obliged to keep his or her cell phone on during practice, in the event of an emergency situation, the President or any other Executive Board member must be notified before practice begins.

Section 7: Sanctions

The breaching of any of the above Articles will result in a private meeting of the Executive Board. Based on the discretion of the Executive Board, appropriate penalties will be applied.

Signatures

All members must sign and date the constitution, thus agreeing to the laws stated within.

Whitney Smith
Gene (Larkin) 10/3/07
Christine Marie Bryan
Sharon Ojeda
Ann Saxe
John Doe
Heather J. Silva
Monique Ojeda
Debra J. Taylor
Edy Ojeda
Lindsay James
Michelle Khimo
Rose (Larkin)
Stephanie Ardre
Lindsay L. Koenigs
Abigail Smith
10/3/07
Sharon Ojeda

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OCT 18 2007

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