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PREAMBLE

We, the graduates and former students of JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY set forth to perpetuate the memories of university life by providing a medium through which the interest of the University may be promoted, do ordain and establish this constitution.

Article I-Name

The name of this organization shall be the JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED.

Article II-Purpose

The purpose of this Association is (1) to formally associate the alumni of Jackson State University into a legally based organization; (2) to provide financial and moral support to the University through its membership; (3) to establish local chapters; (4) to elect regional vice presidents and other board members and executive officers; (5) to foster support for the University at the local, state, regional, and national levels; and (6) to regulate the activities of local chapters throughout the nation.

Article III-Membership

Section 1:
CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP- Regular, Associate, and Life

Section 2:
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP- Anyone upon whom the University has conferred a degree or anyone who has been a former student with 6 credit hours and who has paid his/her annual membership dues may become a regular member.

Section 3:
Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP- Associate members shall consist of those persons who have not matriculated at the University, but desire to pay the appropriate annual dues and pledge their allegiance and support to Jackson State University. Associate members cannot hold constitutional offices.
Section 4:
Ratified: May 2, 2015, Annual Meeting

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP**- Life membership shall be granted upon (1) submission of an application for Life Membership and (2) payment of the five hundred dollars ($500) Life Membership Fee to the Association. Applications must be filed through a chartered chapter of the Association wherever such chapter exists or with the National Alumni Association. A past president of the Association may be given life membership status, if they are in good standing with the Association, upon unanimous ratification by the delegates at the Mid-Winter Council Meeting of the Association.

Section 5:
Ratified: May 2, 2015, Annual Meeting

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**- Membership dues are to be determined by the Board of Directors during the Mid-Winter Council Meeting.

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**Article IV-Officers**

Section 1:
Ratified: February 26, 2016, Mid-Winter Council Meeting
Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

The principal elected officers of this association shall consist of:

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Six (6) Regional Vice Presidents
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Financial Secretary

The appointed officers of this association shall consist of:

- Chaplain
- Reporter
- Parliamentarian
- Sergeant-at-Arms

The ex-officio officers of this association shall consist of:

- Executive Director of Alumni and Constituency Relations
- Board Member Emeritus
Section 2:
Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

The principal officers shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and shall serve for a two-year term. The President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary shall be elected by nationwide balloting. National principal officers shall be elected in even numbered years. The appointed officers shall serve for a two-year term consistent with the current president.

Section 3:
Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

The Director of Alumni and Constituency Relations at Jackson State University shall serve as the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall serve as an ex-officio officer and non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

Section 4:

The Immediate Past President of the National Alumni Association shall serve as an ex-officio officer and voting member of the Board of Directors.

Section 5:
Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

To be eligible for any national office, an alumnus must have been a regular financial member of the Association for three consecutive years and must have served as an officer or committee chair at the regional or chapter level.

Section 6:
Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

The President and Vice Presidents shall not be employees of the University, and Board members who are employees of the University shall not have voting rights.

Article V- Regions

Section 1:

The National Alumni Association is comprised of the following six (6) regions:

The Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the Caribbean.

The Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey,

The Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The Southwest: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.


Mississippi: The state will represent one region.

Section 2:

Chapter members in each region shall elect a Regional Vice President. Regional Vice Presidents shall serve on the Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Incorporated Executive Committee. Regional Vice Presidents shall not serve concurrently as Chapter Presidents.

Section 3:

Ratified: June 7, 2013, Biennial Conference

Each region will elect two (2) members to serve on the Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Incorporated Board of Directors. Regions with fewer than three (3) active chapters will elect only one (1) Board member.

Section 4:

Ratified: February 26, 2016, Mid-Winter Council Meeting

Six regional board members will be elected annually. Board members will be elected by their respective regions to serve for two years and shall be elected for no more than two consecutive terms (four years). An election will not be held in 2017.

Section 5:

All chapters will be assessed an annual national fee and an annual regional fee by the Association to cover national and regional administrative expenses.

Section 6:

Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of Regional Vice President or a Regional Board member, the region shall caucus and select a replacement to fill the unexpired term. Regional Vice Presidents must consult with regional board members and chapter presidents within their respective region.
Article VI-Duties of Officers

Section 1:

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee. The President, serving as an ex-officio member of all committees, may call special meetings and may nominate members to committees as provided in the constitution. The President shall be the designated representative of the Association.

Section 2:

The First Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President. The responsibility of the First Vice President shall include coordination of committee activities and fundraising.

Section 3:

The Second Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and the First Vice President. The responsibilities of the Second Vice President shall include membership and student recruitment.

Section 4:

*Ratified: May 2, 2015, Annual Meeting*

Regional Vice Presidents shall serve as liaisons with the National Alumni Office for their respective regions, interact with local chapters, assist in planning regional conferences and perform other duties as assigned by the National Alumni President. Regional Vice Presidents shall attend two (2) national meetings annually: the Fall and Mid-Winter Alumni Council Meetings.

Section 5:

The Secretary shall keep in permanent form, complete and accurate records of all meetings of the Association and shall receive and present correspondence. The Secretary shall make available copies of all Association records to active members and chapters, in good standing, of the Association.

Section 6:

The Assistant Secretary shall serve in the absence of the Secretary and assist the Secretary as needed. The Assistant Secretary shall maintain the attendance roll of the Board of Directors at every meeting.

Section 7:

The Treasurer shall serve as chair of the Budget Committee and shall receive deposits, and account for all monies of the Association. The Treasurer shall periodically check with the Office of Alumni and Constituency Relations to monitor all income for the Association. The Treasurer shall present and submit
Section 8:

The Financial Secretary shall serve in the absence of the Treasurer and assist in receipt and account of all monies of the Association. The Financial Secretary shall serve on the Budget Committee and assist the Treasurer in maintaining accurate financial records and preparing for the financial audit.

Section 9:

Following consultation with the President of the Association, the Executive Director shall implement the programs of the Association as approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 10:

The Chaplain shall assist in the opening and closing of the Association meetings and shall represent the Association in religious matters.

Section 11:

The Reporter, at regular and special meetings, shall submit reports of the Association’s activities to its members, to official University publications, and other publications as considered necessary.

Section 12:

The Parliamentarian shall insure that parliamentary rules are followed in all proceedings of the Association and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the presiding officer. Robert’s Rules of Order, Recently Revised Edition shall be the guide for parliamentary procedures.

Section 13:

The Past JSU National Alumni Presidents and Past Jackson State University Presidents, who are Jackson State University alumni, will serve in an Advisory capacity on standing committees of choice and will have voting privileges on all matters coming before the National Alumni Board (see Article IV, Section 1).

Section 14:

In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the First Vice President shall assume the office of the President for the unexpired term and may seek the office of President for the succeeding term. The Second Vice President shall assume the position of the First Vice President, and the Board shall appoint a Second Vice President. In the event of a vacancy in any office to which there is a designated assistant, the assistant shall assume the duties of the office for the unexpired term of the office and shall be eligible for nomination and election to the office for the succeeding term. In the event of a vacancy where there is not a designated assistant, the President shall nominate, and the board shall confirm, a
replacement for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 15:

Principal Officers shall be elected for no more than two consecutive terms (four years). Principal Officers include the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Regional Vice Presidents.

Article VII- Board of Directors

Section 1:

The Board of Directors of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Incorporated shall consist of the principally elected officers of the Executive Committee, Regional Board members, and the appointed and ex-officio officers. The six (6) Regional Vice Presidents are considered principal officers, as defined in Article IV, Section 1 of the Association’s Constitution. The chair of this governing authority is the President of the National Alumni Association. All ex-officio officers, with the exception of the Executive Director, are voting members of the Board of Directors. Appointed officers are non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2:
Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

Each member of the Board of Directors shall be an active regular or life member in good standing with the Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Incorporated and a chartered chapter whenever such a chapter exists. An updated geographic map of all recognized and active alumni chapters will be listed on the official JSUNAA website.

Section 3:

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the overall governance of the association.

Section 4:

If a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, the President of the Association, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall nominate a candidate to fill the unexpired status of the term. If the vacancy is either a Regional Vice-President or Regional Board member, then the procedure clarified in Article V, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Association shall be followed.

Section 5:
Ratified: May 2, 2015, Annual Meeting
Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

The Board of Directors shall hold two (2) regular meetings a year (Fall Council and Mid-Winter Council). Meeting dates to be determined by JSUNAA President.
Article VIII-Alumni Council

The Alumni Council shall consist of Chapter Presidents and the Board of Directors of the Association.

Article IX-Governing Authority Meeting

Revised: May 2, 2015, Annual Meeting

The Mid-Winter Council Meeting of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Incorporated shall take place in February or March of each year. This meeting is the ultimate governing authority of the Association.

Article X-Local Chapters

Section 1:
Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

Any group of ten or more persons in good standing with the Association within a certain geographical location, who meets all requirements for membership, may make application to the Association to be chartered as a chapter.

Section 2:

The application for a chapter charter to the Association must include a membership roster, including addresses and annual dues for each member.

Section 3:

The local chapter will be required to operate under the auspices of the Association. Each group will be required to participate in and support the activities of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Incorporated in its relationship to the University.

Section 4:

Local chapter officers shall be elected every two years during odd-numbered years.

Section 5:

The constitution of local chapters shall not be in conflict with the Charter, the Constitution, or the By-Laws of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Incorporated. Any chapter that fails to comply with this section shall be in conflict and will not be recognized as duly chartered with the Association.
Article XI-Rules of Order

Ratified: June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference

Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern in all cases not covered by the Jackson State University National Alumni Association Constitution or Bylaws.

Article XII-Amendments

Ratified: May 2, 2015, Annual Meeting

The power to alter, amend, or repeal the Constitution and Bylaws Committee or adopt new Constitution and Bylaws shall be vested in the board of directors. Proposed amendment(s) to the Constitution shall be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The Committee chairperson shall disseminate the proposed amendment(s) to Board of Directors at least two weeks prior to any board meeting for review at the next general membership meeting. At the following meeting the amendment(s) shall be presented, with a recommendation from the committee, for a vote, upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, at the meeting, the amendment shall be adopted. The amended constitution becomes effective on July 1, of the year in which it is ratified at the Mid-Winter Council Meeting.

Article XIII- Contracts, Deposits, and Loans

Section 1:
Effective: July 1, 2011, Biennial Conference

Contracts- The board of directors may authorize any officer(s) or agent(s) of the JSUNAA to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the JSUNAA and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2:
Effective: July 1, 2011, Biennial Conference

Deposits- All funds of the association shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the association in such banks, trust companies, or other depositaries as the board of directors may select.

Section 3:
Effective: July 1, 2011, Biennial Conference

Loans- JSUNAA shall not make any loans to any of its directors, officers, or any other external solicitor.
Article XIV- Indemnification and Insurance

Section 1:
Effective: July 1, 2011, Biennial Conference
The association may indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the association) by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the association, or who is or was serving at the request of the association as a director, officer, employee or agent of the association, or who is or was serving at the request of the association as a director, officer, employee or agent of another association, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to the best interests of the association, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the association, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 2:
Effective: July 1, 2011, Biennial Conference
The association may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the association, or who is or was serving at the request of the association as a director, officer, employee or agent of another association, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the association would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of this Article XIV.
Article XV-Ratification

This Constitution shall be considered properly and duly ratified by the members present and voting at the annual required meeting of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association, Incorporated.

Ms. Yolanda R. Owens, President

Dr. Albert Holmes, Jr., Parliamentarian

February 26, 2016

Date

Previously Revised:

May 2, 2015, Annual Meeting
June 7, 2013, Biennial Conference
June 4, 2011, Biennial Conference