

# **Men of Valor - Black Men At Wake Bylaws**

## **ARTICLE 1 – Name**

The name of this Affinity Resource Group (ARG) shall be the Men of Valor - Black Men At Wake.

## **ARTICLE 2 – Mission and Objectives**

Section 1. The mission of the Men of Valor - Black Men At Wake Affinity Resource Group is to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment at Wake Forest University for individuals interested in issues facing the Black community. The group will strive to foster an environment for Black men to establish and sustain relationships, connections, and impact within and beyond the WFU community.

The group will serve as a resource to Wake Forest University to positively influence the environment and assist the University in achieving its diversity, inclusion, and equity vision by creating awareness of our ARG, events, networking opportunities, and innovative ideas.

Section 2: There are 3 primary objectives of the Men of Valor - Black Men At Wake Affinity Resource Group. These objectives include:

- Build an internal support system for Black professionals within the University
  - Reduce isolation
  - Address issues/concerns
  - Foster more community
- Foster an environment of inclusion for Black faculty and staff
  - Networking
  - Mentoring and coaching
- Support the University's efforts to attract and retain the best Black talent and enhance the career pathways of Black faculty and staff
  - Work/Life balance
  - Recruiting strategies
  - Strategies for career navigation

Section 3: By engaging in these initiatives, the following outcomes are also intended may also be realized at Wake Forest University.

- Support the University in creating and sustaining a diverse and inclusive work environment
- Lead other employees toward a better cultural understanding
- Assist in driving organizational initiatives that maximize the development of Black employees

## **Article III – Participation**

Employees who take part in any leadership role of a Wake Forest University (such as Co-Chair / Chair or Vice-Chair) must have supervisor approval to hold a leadership role since there is a

commitment expectation to deliver WFU ARG goals during the duration of service. Similarly, employees who take part in WFU ARGs as a participant (non-leadership role) during their normally scheduled working time must have supervisor approval. Employees do not need supervisor approval to take part in WFU ARG activities on their own personal time (not normally scheduled working hours).

Membership is open to all faculty, staff, and administrators of the University. Members must meet and maintain the following eligibility requirements:

## **CRITERIA**

- Members must be employed by or affiliated with Wake Forest University.
- Membership is open to all University employees interested in supporting and learning more about issues related to the Black community.
- Membership is voluntary.
- Attendance to a majority of ARG meetings – as determined by the officers, or leadership.
- Support the core values of the University.
- Be an advocate for the University's diversity, inclusion, and equity goals.
- Confidentiality where appropriate

## **LEADERSHIP**

- New and replacement leadership members will be determined by members and will serve a 12-month term (unless there is voluntary attrition or the steering committee recommends a change)

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Opinions, experiences, and ideas shared by members of the ARG during meetings or related activities and any records thereof, shall be held in confidence and such records shall remain the sole and exclusive property of the University.

## **ARTICLE 4 –Meetings**

Section 1. Annual Meeting - The Men of Valor - Black Men At Wake Affinity Resource Group will hold an annual meeting to conduct elections of officers. The meeting will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

Section 2. Regular Meetings - The Men of Valor - Black Men At Wake Affinity Resource Group must meet bi-monthly at a time and date that is set in advance by the group's leadership. Meetings will occur at times that increase the likelihood that all faculty and staff members can attend. All official meetings should be announced at least seven days in advance.

Section 3. Meeting Minutes – A recorder of the Men of Valor - Black Men At Wake Affinity Resource Group will document all formal business that occurs at the meeting.

All Affinity meetings and/or teleconferences will be managed in the following manner:

- Attendance
- Old business
- Items discussed

- Decisions made
- Action items
- New business
- Next meeting date and agenda

Section 4: Protocol - All ARG meetings and/or teleconferences shall be conducted in accordance with the following inclusive behaviors:

- Share freely of member's experiences
- Encourage others to share freely
- Allow one conversation at a time
- Respect unique/different points of view
- Agree to disagree
- Confine comments to the issue at hand
- Be sensitive to everyone's time
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Provide a timekeeper as needed
- Maintain the confidentiality of internal issues
- Be creative and encourage creativity in others
- Be an active communicator and listener
- Think about the greater good of the organization as a whole

## **ARTICLE 5 – Officers**

Section 1. Leadership. The Men of Valor - Black Men At Wake Affinity Resource Group shall have a) two dually elected Co-Chairs or b) an elected Chair and Vice-Chair. Each Officer must be a member of the ARG. All Officers must be in good standing at the time of election.

Section 2. Co-Chairs. In the event that Co-Chairs are elected, these officers will share responsibility for presiding over ARG meetings and serves as the official liaison between the ERG and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The Chair shall appoint all leaders of special committees with the approval of the membership. These Co-Chairs will share responsibility in representing the Men of Valor - Black Men at Wake Affinity Resource Group at public meetings and events, university programs, and other authorized occasions.

Section 3. Chair. In the election of an individual chair, that officer shall preside over ARG meetings and serves as the official liaison between the ERG and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The Chair shall appoint all leaders of special committees with the approval of the membership. The Chair also represents the Men of Valor - Black Men at Wake Affinity Resource Group at public meetings and events, university programs, and other authorized occasions.

Section 4. Vice-Chair. In the election of an individual vice-chair, that officer shall support the Chair in presiding over ARG meetings and serves as a representative between the ARG and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in the absence of the Chair. The Vice-Chair also assumes the duties of the secretary in their absence.

Section 5. Participation. Officers are responsible for attending ARG meetings. All Officers are members of the executive board. The executive board has the authority to carry out the provisions of these bylaws and to expend funds in line with the wishes of the membership. An

officer who is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without the approval from the Chair must vacate their role. Officers may be removed by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the active membership.

#### **ARTICLE 5 –Membership and Elections**

Section 1. Membership in the ARG is open to all individuals of any identity who have a commitment to issues facing Black faculty, staff, and students.

Section 2. Elections. Votes are affected by a simple majority vote of active members. The bylaws can only be changed with a vote from at least two-thirds of the active membership.

#### **Article 6 – Adoption and Amendments**

This charter shall take effect immediately upon being put in final format and approved by the ARG, executive committee, ODI, HR or other appropriate body.

Any member of the ARG, the executive committee and/or ODI/HR may propose amendments. Adoption of amendments shall be subject to the same approval process as the founding charter. Approved amendments will be incorporated into the charter and shall take effect immediately, or as described in the amendment.

This charter is created as a framework around which the ARG will carry out its mission. It is not intended to be a contract and may change, as business needs change.

#### **Article 7 – ARG Image**

ARG members must model leadership in all aspects of the diversity and inclusion process and must represent a positive image for the University in all its dealings.