

BY-LAWS OF THE HOUSTON CHAPTER OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PSYCHOLOGISTS

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be known as the Houston Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists, hereby referred to as HABPsi.

ARTICLE II: SCOPE AND PURPOSE

A. The Houston Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists was organized in April of 1976.

- (1) The overall goals of the local chapter are identical to those of the national organization. In addition, the specific local goals are the following:
 - (a) to formulate opinions with policy implications concerning relevant psychological, sociological, economical, and political issues which affect Black people and other ethnic minority groups.
 - (b) to collaborate with local organizations in meeting the mental health needs of Black people and other ethnic minority groups.
 - (c) to encourage and support the involvement of the membership in education and professional activities (inservice training, continuing education, independent research, licensure and certification, scholarly papers and publications, etc...).
 - (d) to encourage and support the development of psychology students through recruitment, fellowship, support, curriculum development, internships, job or graduate school placement, etc...
- (2) To accomplish these goals, the Association shall exercise, but not be limited to, the following specific functions:
 - (a) to establish a central local organization of Black Psychologists; to develop funding sources for working capital, staff support, and education programs.
 - (b) to seek funding for projects involving Black psychologists and to support scholarly papers, training programs, recruitment of students and faculty and community mental health programs.
 - (c) to establish Ad-Hoc committee(s) to survey and implement relevant programs or activities.
 - (d) to participate with community organizations that have objectives consistent with the scope and purpose of the Houston Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists.
 - (e) to develop position papers and/or policy statements in regard to issues affecting Black people.

- B. The Association of Black Psychologists is a national organization of local chapters throughout the United States. The Association of Black Psychologists is organized for
 - (1) the purpose of influencing and effecting social change; and
 - (2) the development of programs through which Black psychologists can assist in solving problems of Black people and other minority groups.
- C. The Houston Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists shall be affiliated with the National Association of Black Psychologists.
- D. The Houston Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists is not a competency organization. No affirmations or representations regarding an individual's competency are attached to membership in the association.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership in the organization is limited to those professionals whose interests lie in the enhancement and promotion of the psychological, sociological, economical, and political issues which affect Black people and other ethnic minority groups.
- B. Membership shall be granted to persons who hold a college degree, or its equivalent, in psychology, or related fields, or who are working in the field of psychology or related fields, or who are students in psychology or related fields.
- C. There shall be five types of membership in the Houston Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologists. Membership is an annually renewable privilege contingent upon both meeting and maintaining criteria for membership as well as payment of annual non-refundable dues. Types and requirements for membership are as follows:

- (1) **Professional:** An individual who has a major in psychology at the doctoral or master's level and is committed to the goals and objectives of HABPsi.
- (2) **Associate:** An individual who has a major in one of the Social/Behavioral Science areas at the doctoral or master's level and is committed to goals and objectives of HABPsi.
- (3) **Adjunct:** An individual who has a major in psychology and/or one of the Social/Behavioral Sciences at the Bachelors level and is committed to the goals and objectives of HABPsi.

- (4) **Affiliate:** An individual who is a person not eligible for other membership categories or voting privileges, but committed to the goals and objectives of HABPsi.
- (5) **Student:** An individual who is enrolled full time {9 semester hours or more} at the undergraduate or graduate level in the area of psychology and is committed to the goals and objectives of HABPsi.

D. Rules and Procedures for Membership

- (1) A candidate for membership shall make application on the form prescribed by the Houston Chapter of the Association of Black Psychologist.
- (2) Applications for membership shall be reviewed by the Membership Committee Chair.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- A. The officers of the Chapter will be elected by a majority vote of members satisfying the requirements of a quorum.
- B. Chair-persons shall be appointed by the President excluding the Student Circle Chair position. The Student Circle Chair position is an elected office.
- C. All officers and chair-persons shall hold their positions for a term of one year. No person may hold more than one position simultaneously.
- D. The officers and chair-persons of the Chapter, and their respective responsibilities are as follows:
1. **President:** presides over general and executive meetings; responsible for overall coordination and functioning of chapter; serves as an ad hoc member of each committee; serves as liaison between chapter and national; represents organization as its official spokesperson.
 2. **President-Elect:** assumes responsibilities of president in his absence; serves as member of the program committee; prepares general meeting agenda at the direction of the Executive Committee.
 3. **Secretary:** compiles and maintains records of the chapter; records and disseminates minutes of the general meetings; records minutes of Executive Committee meetings; assists president with correspondence as needed; extends courtesies to chapter members; serves on the program committee.

4. **Treasurer:** recipient and disbursing officer of all monies; serves on the Fundraising Committee maintains membership and financial records, provides financial advise, prepares financial reports as required.
 5. **Student Circle Chair:** responsible for organizing student input and communicating student concerns; promotes the goals and objectives of the organization amongst student members.
 6. **Membership Committee Chair:** responsible for student membership; serves as advocate for student concerns; recruitment and advocacy for members; reviews membership applications.
 7. **Program Committee Chair:** Liaison for cooperative programs, community action, issues and research, information and dissemination; media/public relations.
 8. **Fundraising Committee Chair:** Local and national; ongoing, special events, outside funding sources.
- E. The offices of President and President-Elect shall be held by members who have at least a Master's degree in psychology, or a related field, as determined by the membership.
 - F. The office of Student Circle Chair shall be held by a student who is currently enrolled in a Master's or Doctoral program in psychology, or a related field, as determined by the membership.
 - G. Elected officers of the association may be eligible for a second term, with the approval of the Executive Committee.
 - H. Elected officers and committee chairs shall attend 75% of scheduled chapter meetings to maintain position.
 - I. Candidates for elected office or appointed positions must be in good standing with the association.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. The Executive Committee is responsible for coordinating the activities of the organization in order to achieve those goals outlined within these by-laws. In so doing, it functions in accordance with the organization's articles of incorporation and in service to the general membership.
- B. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers and committee chairpersons of the chapter.
- C. Any member of the Executive Committee may resign by notice in writing to the President and in the President's case, by notice to the President-Elect.

- D. Any member of the Executive Committee may be removed from his/her position by formal motion of a general member and 75% of membership satisfying a quorum.
- E. Special elections to fill vacancies may be called by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI: VOTING

- A. Each financial member is entitled to one vote.
- B. The quorum required for valid voting shall consist of those members present, plus properly submitted proxies.
- C. Proxies are limited to written and signed statements, or electronic submissions.

ARTICLE VII: DUES

The dues of the chapter shall be determined periodically by a majority vote of members satisfying the requirements of a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

- A. These By-Laws may be amended by a simple majority vote. A formal resolution to alter, amend, repeal, or enact new by-laws may be proposed by any member.
- B. Written notice of the proposed resolution must be provided for the full membership.
- C. Voting on the proposed resolution shall be held at the next scheduled chapter meeting.
- D. Proposed amendments will be approved by a majority vote of members satisfying the requirements of a quorum.

Adopted on 09-09-04

Revised on 02-16-08