

# OFFICIAL CONSTITUTION



## THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MINORITIES IN AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND RELATED SCIENCES

Amended April 2018

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# CONSTITUTION OF MINORITIES IN AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND RELATED SCIENCES (MANRRS)

## **Amendment History**

4/22/1989, 10/26/1991, 11/15/1992, 4/9/1994, 4/1/1997, 4/1/2001, 4/6/2002, 4/1/2010, 4/1/2011, 3/2014, 4/2015, 4/2016, 4/2018

## **Vision**

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) is a premier leadership development organization that is dedicated to the career, personal, and professional growth of a diverse and highly skilled membership involved in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.

## **Preamble**

We, the members of this society, pledge to support endeavors that will always foster and promote the agricultural and natural resource sciences and related fields in a positive manner among ethnic minorities. We also pledge to initiate and participate in activities and programs that will ensure that ethnic minorities will always be involved and associated with these disciplines. These activities and programs will be initiated both within and outside the academic community. Members of this society are encouraged to join and participate in their individual professional societies. We pledge to work for the inclusion, achievement, and advancement of all people in the agricultural and natural resource sciences and related fields.

## **ARTICLE I: Name**

### **Section 1**

The name of this non-profit society shall be Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), hereafter called the National Society or the Society.

- (a) The Society is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- (b) No part of the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the Society shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Society shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this document, the Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on:
  - (i) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or

(ii) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding sections of any future federal tax codes.

(c) Upon the dissolution of the Society, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **Section 2**

The Society shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws and Rules and by policies set forth by its Executive Committee in harmony therewith.

## **ARTICLE II: Objectives**

### **Section 1**

The overall objective of the Society shall be to promote and implement initiatives which foster inclusion and advancement of members of ethnic/cultural groups under-represented in agricultural and natural resource sciences and related fields in all phases of career preparation and participation in these areas.

### **Section 2**

Development of leadership and professional skills and scholarly excellence among the Society's Student Members and Professional Members who are in the early stages of their careers shall be among the Society's highest priorities.

### **Section 3**

The Society shall promote and offer opportunities for participation in an active mutual support network to all of its members.

## **ARTICLE III: Membership**

### **Section 1**

Membership and participation in this Society shall include all individuals engaged academically or professionally in, or retired from, agriculture, natural resources or related sciences disciplines. Membership and participation shall be free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

### **Section 2**

The rights and privileges of membership in the Society are reserved for chapters, individuals, and other members who have paid all applicable dues and fees to the National Treasurer.

### **Section 3**

The rights and privileges of every member shall be personal to the member and shall not be transferable.

### **Section 4**

Every person, chapter and entity admitted to membership in the Society shall be subject to the Constitution, By-laws, and Rules of the Society.

## **ARTICLE IV: Organization**

### **National**

#### **Section 1**

The National Society shall consist of up to six regions. The distribution of states among regions shall be determined by the Executive Committee on recommendation from the Membership Committee. The distribution shall always give consideration to the geographic locations of the states and the active chapters of the Society and to the best interests of the Society.

#### **Section 2**

There shall be a policy approved by the Executive Committee on periodic review and changes, if warranted, in the distribution of states among regions and/or in the number of regions in the Society.

### **Regional and Local**

#### **Section 3**

Each region may have a chartered chapter at any college or university with a degree program in the agricultural and/or natural resource sciences or related fields.

#### **Section 4**

Each region which meets the membership requirements in the policy established by the Executive Committee shall be represented by an Undergraduate Student Vice President.

#### **Section 5**

There shall be regional representation of Graduate Student Members by Graduate Student Vice Presidents according to a policy established by the Executive Committee on recommendations from the Membership Committee.

#### **Section 6**

Each chapter shall have a President, a President-Elect or Vice President, a Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer, and a Parliamentarian.

## **Section 7**

Each chapter shall adopt Robert's' Rules of Order as the authority on parliamentary matters not covered by the rules of the local chapter or Society.

## **ARTICLE V: Administration**

### **National**

#### **Section 1**

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Society which shall consist of the following: National Professional President, National President-Elect, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Historian, National Undergraduate Student President, all Undergraduate Student Vice Presidents, National Graduate Student President, all Graduate Student Vice Presidents, Chairperson of the Advisory Board, Standing Committee Chairpersons, and the National Professional President, National Undergraduate Student President and National Graduate Student President of the immediately preceding year. The Chief Operating Officer or a designee from the National Office shall serve as an ex-officio member on the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 2**

There shall be an Executive Committee Sub-committee which shall consist of the following: National Professional President, National President-Elect, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Historian, National Undergraduate Student President, National Graduate Student President, Chairperson of the Advisory Board, and the National Professional President of the immediately preceding year. The Chief Operating Officer or a designee from the National Office shall serve as an ex-officio member on the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 3**

In order to conduct official business and make official decisions for the Society, the Executive Committee and Sub-executive Committee must convene a quorum. A quorum shall consist of 50% of the designated body plus one. The Executive Committee shall:

- (a) administer the affairs for the Society under the By-Laws and the general provisions of the law under which the Society is incorporated.
- (b) serve as the final arbiter on all questions of Society policy.
- (c) develop/recommend a Society budget annually and direct the administration of the Society's finances.
- (d) provide annual reports of the Society's business affairs to the general membership. The reports shall become part of the proceedings of the annual business meeting.
- (e) appoint, lead and provide direction for applicable Standing Committees and other committees as warranted by the needs of the Society.

#### **Section 4**

At the discretion of the National Professional President, when it is deemed to be in the Society's best interest, the Executive Committee Sub-committee shall act on behalf of the full Executive Committee with all the authority granted to the Executive Committee.

## **Section 5**

Audits of the National Society of MANRRS

(a) MANRRS' financial records shall be audited by a certified public accountant or an audit committee within 60 days of the close of the fiscal/calendar year.

## **ARTICLE VI: Officers**

### **National and Regional**

#### **Section 1**

The elected positions shall be:

- (a) Professional Members
  - (i) National Professional President
  - (ii) National President-Elect
  - (iii) National Secretary
  - (iv) National Treasurer
  - (v) National Historian
- (b) Student Members
  - (vi) National Undergraduate Student President
  - (vii) National Graduate Student President
  - (viii) Regional Undergraduate Student Vice President(s)
  - (ix) Regional Graduate Student Vice President(s)

#### **Section 2**

Eligibility for national offices from Professional Members shall be any qualified Professional Member [see By-laws] who is in good standing.

#### **Section 3**

Eligibility for national undergraduate/graduate student offices shall be any qualified Undergraduate/Graduate Student Member [see By-laws] who is in good standing and who can be expected to be in the Student status of his/her constituents for his/her term in office.

#### **Section 4**

The National Undergraduate Student President shall be elected by the Undergraduate Student Members [see By-laws] of the Society from a slate of all qualified current and former Regional Undergraduate Student Vice Presidents. If this does not yield a slate of at least two (2) candidates, the nominating Committee shall solicit candidates from the undergraduate student membership at large.

#### **Section 5**

Each elected officer, including the National Professional President, shall submit to the Executive Committee a plan of work and a budget for the period which ends with upcoming national conference at least 30 days before the summer planning meeting.

## **Section 6**

Subject to availability of funds there shall be an Executive Office of Operations employed by the Society whose general duties include support and day-to-day operations of the Society's programs. The National Professional President and/or his/her designee(s) shall prescribe any other duties for the Executive Officer of Operations and shall oversee her/his performance.

## **Regional and Local**

### **Section 7**

Regional Undergraduate Student Vice Presidents and Graduate Student Vice Presidents shall serve as presiding officers for their constituencies in the regions they represent.

### **Section 8**

Each chartered chapter of the Society shall include a Chapter Executive Committee composed of the elected officers of the chapter, the Chapter Parliamentarian, and one at-large chapter member appointed by the Chapter President.

## **ARTICLE VII: Voting**

### **National**

#### **Section 1**

For the annual meeting, each chartered chapter of the Society in good standing shall elect two (2) delegates as its voting representatives and the chapter shall be entitled to two (2) votes on any matter of business excluding the election of graduate student officers and officers from the Professional Members.

#### **Section 2**

For the annual meeting, each Professional member, excluding those that are honorary members only, shall be entitled to one vote on any matter of business excluding the election of student officers.

#### **Section 3**

National and regional officers shall be elected by Society member present at the annual meetings as follows:

- (a) Officers from the Professional Members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Professional Members in good standing.
- (b) The National Undergraduate Student President shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates for chapters in good standing.
- (c) Each Regional Undergraduate Student Vice President shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates for chapters in good standing from the region(s) he/she will represent.
- (d) The National Graduate Student President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Graduate Student Members in good standing.
- (e) Each Regional Graduate Student Vice President shall be elected by a majority vote of the graduate students in good standing from the region(s) she/he will represent.

#### **Section 4**

An entity which is a Supporting Member in good standing may designate two (2) representatives who shall each have voting rights as regular Professional Members of the Society.

#### **Section 5**

To vote in regional or national business meetings and elections, an independent student member must participate as a member of a chartered student chapter in good standing in his or her region.

#### **Regional**

#### **Section 6**

At regional meetings, and in regional matters of business, each chartered chapter in good standing shall be represented by two (2) elected voting representatives who shall each be entitled to one (1) vote.

#### **Local**

#### **Section 7**

Each Undergraduate/Graduate Student Member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote on chapter business matters.

### **ARTICLE VIII: Dues/Fees**

#### **National**

#### **Section 1**

The fiscal year shall begin January 1 and end on December 31.

#### **Section 2**

Each year, the National Professional President and the National Treasurer shall prepare a recommended schedule of dues/fees by class of membership for the upcoming fiscal year. The recommended schedule of dues/fees shall be presented to the Executive Committee which shall approve a schedule of dues/fees at least four (4) months prior to the upcoming fiscal year.

#### **Section 3**

The schedule of dues/fees shall include the following membership classifications.

- (a) Professional Member
- (b) Undergraduate Student Member and,
- (c) Graduate Student Member or
- (d) Student Chapter
- (e) Supporting Member
- (f) Junior MANRRS chapter/group member.

### **ARTICLE IX: Society Meetings**

#### **Section 1**

The Society shall hold an annual meeting each spring season:

- (a) To include the general membership in the Society's governing and business decisions.
- (b) To promote mentoring, networking and social interaction among members of the Society.
- (c) To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among members of the Society and with guests.
- (d) To provide personal and professional development opportunities for members of the Society with an emphasis on Student Members and Professional members who are in developmental stages of their careers.

## **Section 2**

Each year, the National Professional President shall call a mid-year meeting of the Executive Committee to conduct the business of the Society.

## **Section 3**

Additional meetings of the Executive Committee or the Executive Committee Sub-committee shall be called by the National Professional President when, in his/her view, it is in the best interest of the Society. These meetings may be by phone, in person, by teleconference or other electronic means.

## **Section 4**

All general elections of national and regional officers of the Society shall be held at the annual meetings.

## **ARTICLE X: Amendments**

### **Section 1**

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any two (2) members in good standing of the Society.

### **Section 2**

Proposed amendments shall be in written form prescribed by the Executive Committee.

### **Section 3**

Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the National Secretary at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting for review and recommendations for disposition by the Executive Committee.

### **Section 4**

Ratification of a proposed amendment to the constitution at the annual meeting shall require a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the chapter delegates, Graduate Student Members, and Professional Members in good standing who are present for the vote.

### **Section 5**

Ratification of a proposed amendment submitted to the Society's membership by mail shall require a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote on the ballots returned and received before the due date.

**ARTICLE XI: Robert's Rules of Order**

**Section 1**

Robert's Rule of Order will be the authority for reference in parliamentary matters.