

**GOVERNMENT COLLEGE UMUAHIA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION  
U.K & IRELAND**

**President: Chijioke Ebizie**

**Secretary: Nkwachukwu Aguocha**

**Treasurer: Victor Ehriodo**

**Financial | Publicity Secretary:  
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**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT COLLEGE  
UMUAHIA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND IRELAND**

**ARTICLE 1: Name**

The organisation shall be known as Government College Umuahia Old Boys Association of Great Britain and Ireland or the “Association.”

**ARTICLE 2: Aims**

**(1). Advancement of Education:**

- I. To promote the welfare of staff and students at Government College Umuahia, Nigeria, through scholarships, grants, and educational programs such as sending textbooks from BAFA (Book Aid for Africa, other similar charities).
- II. Organisation of seminars and training events covering skill acquisition and health awareness in the community.

**(2). Relief of Poverty and Community Support:**

- I. To support the welfare of individuals in the UK by organising fundraising activities and charity events to benefit food banks, the homeless, mental health charities, and other charities in the community
- II. To address and support the welfare needs of members as they arise, ensuring their well-being.

(3). Promotion of Community and Ethical Standards:

- I. To encourage high standards of academic and personal achievement among students of Government College Umuahia, Nigeria through educational support and mentorship programs.
- II. To foster a sense of community and mutual support through fundraising for mental health, food banks, the homeless, and other charities in our various UK Communities.

**ARTICLE 3: Membership**

The following categories of membership are hereby recognised.

**(i) Ordinary Members:**

Membership is automatic for all previous students of Government College Umuahia residing in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Any person who has spent 3 terms in the College is eligible for membership.

**(ii) Voting members:**

For a member to be able to vote or hold office they have to be entered into a central voting register (CVR) held by the Secretary of the association. Entry into the voting register is based on members fulfilling all the conditions set out in Article 4 of this constitution.

**(iii) Honorary Members:**

The organisation encourages links with all well-wishers who share its goals and objectives. Honorary membership without application may therefore be conferred on such individuals and distinguished persons following a written recommendation by 2 members of the association and endorsement by vote of a simple majority of the general assembly of members. This type of membership is open to individuals who have not met the conditions of membership stated in article 3(i) and 3(ii) but who are supporters of the Association and its objectives.

**(iv) Associate members:**

Wives or partners of members of GCUOBA are automatically associate members and need not make an application for membership. Associate membership may also be conferred on application to individuals who declare interest. Such individuals must apply on a standard prescribed form and the application approved by a simple majority of the general assembly.

**ARTICLE 4: Central Voting Register (CVR)**

- I. This is a register of members who have fulfilled ALL the requirements for membership set out in articles 3 and 4, including the payment of dues.
- II. For a member to be able to vote or hold office they have to be entered into the central voting register. Such members will be referred to as “voting members”.
- III. The register is held and maintained by the Secretary of the Association who will update it regularly.
- IV. Members’ names are deleted from the register if they are in default of any of the conditions set out in Article 4 for one calendar year.
- V. Members who make good their default payments are reinstated immediately.

## **ARTICLE 5: Offices**

### **President:**

- I. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
- II. The holder of the office shall preside over the meeting of the Association and the Executive Committee respectively.
- III. The President shall convene the meeting of the Executive Committee at his discretion, or when requested to do so by a simple majority of the members of the Executive Committee.
- IV. The President shall enforce strict observance of the Constitution and rules of the Association. Like other members of the Association, the President, or any person acting in his stead, shall vote on all matters affecting the Association. In the case of a tie, the President shall cast a second vote to break the tie.
- V. The President or anyone designated shall approve all orders forwarded to the treasurer involving cash disbursement, as well as correspondence emanating from the Secretary, except circulars.
- VI. The president may act as a signatory to the Association’s bank accounts.

### **Vice-President:**

The holder of the office shall perform the duties of the president in his absence and any other roles the President might delegate to the office holder.

### **Secretary:**

- I. The holder of the office shall summon all meetings according to the wishes of the executive or general body of members.
- II. The secretary will maintain the Central Voting Register in consultation with the Treasurer.
- III. The Secretary will also maintain 2 other registers; one of ALL ordinary members and one of Honorary and Associate members.
- IV. The secretary will update these registers faithfully and pass them on to its successors. They are important instruments of the association.
- V. The secretary will administer the Secretariat and be involved in the day-to-day operation of the association as a member of the executive.
- VI. The secretary will keep a record of the minutes of the Association.
- VII. The secretary may act as a signatory to the Association’s bank accounts.

**Financial Secretary:**

- I. The holder of the office shall hold information on the finances of the organisation, its bank accounts, and assets.
- II. The holder of the office shall provide regular reports of the state of the organisation's finances to its members, the general assembly or any relevant authority.
- III. The holder of the office shall chair the Finance Committee.
- IV. The Financial Secretary will act as a signatory to the Association's bank accounts.

**Treasurer:**

- I. The holder of the office shall keep a record of all income and expenditure of the Association, and collect dues.
- II. The treasurer will deposit funds to the Association's bank account. Verify and authenticate all vouchers and invoices before expenditure.
- III. No disbursements shall be made by the treasurer except on duly approved vouchers or papers signed by both the President and the Secretary.
- IV. The office holder will act as signatory to the Association's bank accounts.

**Welfare Officer:**

The holder of the office shall head the Welfare Committee, arrange for the welfare of members attending functions of the Association; organise social activities and bring to the attention of the Association all such persons or projects requiring special welfare attention.

**Narrative:**

- I. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Presidency, the Vice President shall become the Acting President for the remainder of the Ex-President's term of office, or until a by-election is held to fill the vacancy.
- II. In the absence of the secretary, the President shall appoint any member of the CVR to serve as the Secretary on a meeting day of the organisation.

**ARTICLE 6: Organs of the Association**

The Association shall have the following Organs

- (a) The General Assembly
- (b) The Executive Committee
- (c) The Board of Trustees

## **1. The General Assembly**

- I. The General Assembly shall comprise all registered members of the Association assembled in a general or emergency meeting and shall constitute the final policy-making body of the Association.
- II. Its decisions on all matters shall be final and binding.
- III. The Assembly shall have the power to appoint or require the executive to appoint ad hoc committees for a definite or special purpose as it shall deem fit, and to establish the terms of reference of such committees. Such committees shall report to the General Assembly.
- IV. The General Assembly shall have the power to appoint at any time an auditor(s) to audit the accounts of the Association.
- V. It will set annual dues and any other levies.

## **2. The Executive Committee**

- I. The association shall act by and through its executive committee which includes all the elected officers and chaired by the President.
- II. It shall have the power to initiate and recommend programs and policies for the approval of the General Assembly.
- III. It shall prepare and submit to the Board of Trustees an annual budget for the association.
- IV. It shall be responsible for executing the policies and decisions of the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly.
- V. The Executive Committee shall at all times represent the interest of the Association.
- VI. The executive may delegate its power as it sees fit, subject to any restrictions imposed by the Constitution and rules of the Association, the conditions of the registration by the Charity Commission and the Laws and statutes of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

## **3. Board of Trustees**

This is the central governance structure for the association and its role will include ensuring probity and the maintenance of the highest standards expected of a public body and recommended by the Charity Commission.

### **I. Membership:**

- A. It will include up to 2 most senior (by year of admission into the College) members of the association and 2 ordinary members elected by a simple majority of the membership by secret ballot.
- B. The Current and immediate past presidents will also be members. Membership will be for a maximum of 3 years.
- C. They will elect a Chairman and Secretary each with a term of one year.
- D. The current president cannot be elected the chairman or secretary of this board.

### **II. Responsibility:**

- A. The Board of Trustees shall act as the appellate body for the Association. It shall have the power to conduct investigations, appoint and monitor commissions, and returning officers for elections.

- B. The Board shall hold regular meetings every six (6) months and emergency meetings when needed.
- C. The Board may appoint ex-officio members as it deems fit for the purpose of adding expertise to its deliberations.

#### **ARTICLE 7: Indemnity**

The Association shall indemnify, and advance expenses to its officers, and agents to the maximum extent permitted by the laws of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

#### **ARTICLE 8: Election**

- I. The elections are supervised by the Board of Trustees who will appoint a returning officer.
- II. Voting will be by secret ballot.
- III. Officers of the association shall be elected by members in the CVR.
- IV. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting or within 3 months of the expiration of the term of office of the current Executive Committee whichever is earlier unless some overriding circumstance necessitates postponement as approved by the General Assembly.
- V. Should elections of Executive Officers not hold prior to the expiration of the term of office of the current executive, the General Assembly shall appoint a caretaker committee.
- VI. Any member of the Association who wants to stand for election must be on the CVR. Such a member must be nominated and seconded by eligible members.
- VII. The candidate who gets the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner for that office. If the candidates receive an equal number of votes, the voting shall be repeated. If there is still a tie after the second voting, the tie shall be broken by the returning officer who shall cast the winning vote.
- VIII. If only one candidate is nominated for an office, that candidate shall be declared elected, unopposed.
- IX. Any nominee has the right to decline a nomination.
- X. Only members in the CVR shall vote.

#### **ARTICLE 9: Terms of office**

- I. The officers of the association shall be elected for a term of three years, unless removed by the General Assembly or until their successors are elected.
- II. An officer may be re-elected any number of times if he is considered capable to serve the Association.
- III. Outgoing officers shall hand over all documents and property of the Association to the newly elected officers before the next meeting following the election.

## **ARTICLE 10: Vacancy and Resignation**

- I. Any elected or appointed officer of the Association, who wishes to resign, shall give at least 3 month's written notice to the President. If the resigning officer is the President, he shall give his written notice of resignation to the Secretary. Letters of resignation shall be presented to the Executive Committee which shall consider them for acceptance or rejection.
- II. Any vacancy resulting from resignation or death or removal of an officer shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee. The person appointed to fill any vacancy within the Executive Committee shall serve out the remainder of the term of the previously elected officer

## **ARTICLE 11: Meetings**

- I. Regular meetings of the Association shall be held at least twice a year unless overriding circumstances necessitate postponement. The time and place of the meeting shall be decided by the Executive Committee.
- II. One meeting will be designated the Annual General Meeting (AGM) where the election of officers, amendment of the constitution, confirmation of honorary and associate memberships and budgetary approvals will be undertaken.
- III. Notice of the association meetings, including meeting date and venue shall be sent by the Secretary to members, no later than 30 days before the date of the meeting.
- IV. An "Extraordinary General Meeting(s)" or EGM may be called by either:
  - A. Two thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee or
  - B. One third(s) (1/3) of the members of the CVR or
  - C. Two thirds (2/3) of the Board of Trustees.
  - D. This meeting shall have the same powers and effect as the AGM.

## **ARTICLE 12: Quorum**

25% of CVR members plus 1 member of executive present at a duly scheduled Association meeting shall constitute a quorum and decisions taken therein shall be binding on the Association.

## **ARTICLE 13: Removal of officers**

- I. Any duly elected officer may be removed from office by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the General Assembly upon recommendation by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the Trustee Board present at the impeachment meeting where the Officer being removed is given due process.
- II. In the interim, the Board of Trustees shall suspend the Officer until he is duly notified and heard in the impeachment meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 14: Dissolution**

In the case of voluntary or involuntary dissolution of the Association, all assets and liabilities shall be reconciled and any proceeds shall be used to benefit Government College Umuahia.

#### **ARTICLE 15: Ratification**

To become a valid effective and working document of Government College Umuahia Old Boys Association, this constitution shall be ratified in the first instance by a vote of at least two thirds (2/3) of the members on the CVR present at a duly scheduled meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 16: Amendment**

- I. This constitution or the rules contained therein may be revised and their provision amended.
- II. Any proposed amendment needs to be communicated to the assembly at least 30 days prior to the Association meeting at which the amendment will be tabled.
- III. A vote of 2/3 of members of the Association on the CVR present at the AGM or an EGM shall be required to amend or revise these rules in whole or in part.
- IV. Thereafter, the rules as amended or revised, and ratified, shall become valid rules of the Association.


#### **ARTICLE 17: Other Provisions and Dissolutions**

- I. No part of the Net Earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organisation shall be authorised and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the aims clause hereof.
- II. No substantial part of the activities of the organisation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organisation 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.



Signed

Engr Chijioke Ebizie  
President  
Date: 03/06/2024



Mr Nkwachukwu Aguocha  
General Secretary  
Date: 03/06/2024

