

CONSTITUTION OF UMOJA

I. Name of the Club

UMOJA

Umaja is a Kiswahili word that means **Unity**.

II. Purposes

- A. To increase the awareness of the relevant issues concerning the African continent in the Middlebury College Community
- B. To ease the transition and to cater the needs and concerns of the entering and existing African students and their affiliates in Middlebury College Community.
- C. To educate Middlebury College Community about African politics, traditions and cultures by using mediums such as symposiums, lectures, discussions and performances.
- D. To challenge the passive acceptance of social, political and economic ideas and practices in the Middlebury College Campus.

III. Membership

Membership is open to all Middlebury College students

IV. Officers

- A. Chairperson - Overall running of the organization
Coordination of various committees
Chair meetings
- B. Vice Chairperson - Assist with the duties of the chairperson and filling in case of the absence of the chair.
- C. Historian - responsible for all publicity including communication within the club as well as promotion of the club.
- D. Treasurer - responsible for handling all financial matters and serves as a liaison to the Finance Committee.

V. Elections

There will be a secret ballot, simple majority vote for elections. The running officials will be nominated and will have to address the members of the club on the Election Day. Only active members - members who have attended 60% of the meetings can run for offices and vote. A quorum of 1/3 of active members is necessary for the elections.

VI. Meetings

There will be biweekly meetings and if need be, there will be emergency meetings.

VII. Committees

There will be a Symposium Committee that will be responsible for the running of the annual symposium. There will also be an Events committee that will be responsible

for organizing discussions, lectures, and performances. The chairperson can appoint additional committees if need arises.

VIII. Faculty Advisor

There will be a faculty advisor

IX. Affiliations

There are no affiliations

X. Ratifications

The constitution must be ratified by a two thirds majority of the active membership

- The Student Government Constitution Committee must ratify the Constitution.

XI. Amendments

The constitution must be amended by a two thirds majority of the active membership

- The Student Government Constitution Committee must amend the Constitution.

We will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, place of birth, Vietnam veteran status, or against qualified individuals with disability on the basis of disability (College handbook, 2000.2001, pg 91)

Approved as to Form: April 16, 2001