**Umqombothi**

**PREAMBLE**

The a cappella group Umqombothi proclaims that it has been founded and is dedicated to promote and encourage, amongst its members:

1. Music of the African Continent
2. Raising awareness about the continent of Africa through its music
3. Increasing the artistic diversity of this campus through African music
4. Embracing the diverse identities that the continent has to offer through its various styles of music.

**ARTICLE I**

*Name*

**Section 1.** The name of this student organization shall be 

*Umqombothi*,

Known as *Princeton Umqombothi* Outside Princeton University.

**Section 2.** The words *Umqombothi* shall not be used by any individual or group of individuals without the consent of the officers or the organization as a whole.

**Section 3:** Audition Protocol:

Music Directors run auditions
President runs discussions
Everyone takes notes on the auditionees

First round: 15-minute audition slots
- Intros
- Warm-up (choice between scales or song first)
- Song of their choice
- Dancing
First round discussions:
- After ALL the auditions at the end of each day
- Do we consider them for callback discussion? 25% agreement to open discussions
- Group discussions at the very end
- Final blind vote for callbacks: 50% to get through. Emails at the end of all first round.
- Debrief for 30 minutes each night
- Discuss each auditionee in chronological order

Callbacks:
First half:
- Brief intros
- Teach Ke na le Modisa, slow and fast
- Small groups, quartets (mix members & auditionees)
- Song leading, improv

What we like musically:
- Quick learning
- Blend (tone)
- Performance ability & confidence
- Good ear
- Rhythm & groove
- Balance parts
- dancing and energy
- improv ability

Callback discussions:
- Directed by mediator (President)
- Quick vote: top bracket & bottom bracket
- Discuss bottom bracket, blind vote on who we want to keep discussing. ⅔ vote in favor required to shift him/her up
- Discuss those people with top bracket
- Blind vote
- Objections
- Final blind vote: 80% for finals. Absolutely no abstentions
ARTICLE II
Membership

Section 1. Membership of this organization is open to all members of the University community who express an interest and successfully pass through an audition process.

Section 2. Auditions are to be conducted within the first weeks of each semester, and the audition process is subject to change based on a 75% agreement on a new process within the group.
Section 3. In a situation when the number of people auditioning is large, there will be callbacks for strong candidates to re-assess the aspiring members.

Section 4. Members are obliged to be present at auditions unless they have class, medical or family emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances that must be cleared in advance with the music directors.

Section 5. Currently, Umqombothi meets three times a week. Meeting times and dates are subject to change based on agreement among the members. In weeks leading up to major performances, meetings shall be more frequent. Should the group decide to meet more times a week on a regular basis, a 70% agreement is required.

Section 6. This organization aims to remain an a cappella group and not become a choir, as such the membership limit at present in twenty fully active members. Should the group wish to accommodate more members it may amend the constitution.

ARTICLE III
Officers (You May Choose Your Own Officer Positions)

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Board of Officers, which shall consist of the following: President, Two Music Directors, Treasurer, Publicity Chair, Social Chair, and Gear Chair.

1. The President is responsible for providing critical leadership for the group by working with the other board members to fulfill long-term and short-term goals. The President receives invitations for guest performances, solicits opportunities to perform, keeps group updated about various performance opportunities, plans and conducts officer meetings, is involved in the planning and execution of Umqombothi-organized performances, supports all other officers execute their tasks, and acts as arbiter in case of any internal dispute or disagreement. The President also runs audition discussions and elections. The President delegates as needed to the board.

2. The Music Directors are in charge of what should be a diverse repertoire of African music, and are also in charge of teaching this music to the group (with the
help of other members or outside parties whenever deemed necessary by the Music Directors).
3. The Treasurer is responsible for handling the finances of the group.
4. The Publicity Chair is in charge of all publicity and outreach, including Facebook events, posters, fliers, emails, promotional videos, the Youtube channel, etc.
5. The Social Chair is responsible for group outings and activities.
6. The Gear Chair is responsible for the procurement of merchandise such as group sweatshirts and pants and performance costumes.
7. With respect to paperwork, the primary responsibility falls to the executive body, which may solicit the help of any group member they deem fit.
8. The outgoing board remains in an emeritus consulting position to advise the board when necessary.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall be empowered to:

(1) Conduct the business and affairs of the organization during periods between meetings of the members;

(2) Act as arbiters in cases of disagreement among members;

(3) Represent the organization in cases of liability, responsibility or honors.

(4) Plan group activities or solicit the help of members to plan said activities.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Board or the entire organization shall be held whenever necessary, upon the request of any Executive Board member. Otherwise, the executive board is required to meet once a fortnight.

ARTICLE IV

Election of Officers (You May Determine Your Own Procedures)

Section 1. Election of the officers:
1. Elections will be held in the spring semester of each academic year, and require a majority vote.

2. If a candidate does not receive a majority of the vote, a run-off will be held between the two candidates who received the highest amount of votes.

3. Elections shall be held for the officer positions cited under Article III

4. Each candidate will have two minutes to present a speech while the other candidates leave the room; after the speeches have been given, all candidates will exit the room and the Executive Board will call for a vote by secret ballot.
5. New positions can be created by consensus among the executive board and the group. If the time of creation of said office does not coincide with election time, the Executive Board may appoint a group member, or run a brief election via email.

6. The current president should run elections by providing the office descriptions, with feedback from current officers, and then deciding the order of elections, including writing all candidates’ names on the board.

7. All non-self nominations should occur prior to elections and in a private google form created and administered by the president.

ARTICLE V
Amendments

Section 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire organization membership.

Section 2. A motion for an amendment to the constitution may be raised at the end of the meeting to elect new officers.

ARTICLE VI
Ratification

Section 1. This constitution will take effect following a unanimous vote of approval by the existing Executive Board and a three-fourths majority vote by the entire organization.

Section 2. The president types up the new constitution and submits it to ODUS.

Section 3. There will be an annual constitutional meeting the night before spring auditions.