ABAC Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow

CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

The official name of this organization shall be ABAC Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. The organization may at times refer to itself as ABAC ACT.

Article II: Affiliation

2.1 National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Affiliation

A. ABAC ACT is a dues-paying member chapter of the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.
A. As such, ABAC ACT will uphold the purposes set forth in the National ACT Constitution.

Article III: Goals and Purposes

The purposes of this organization shall be:

B. To generate and maintain interest in the agricultural communication profession at ABAC and within the Southeastern region of the United States.
C. To connect members with students and faculty from other institutions that offer academic degrees in agricultural communication.
D. To connect members with agricultural communication professionals and industry organizations.

Article IV: Membership

4.1 Selection

Membership shall be open to all registered students in good academic standing at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College regardless of their major.

4.2 Anti-Discrimination

Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, shall be extended to all students without regard to age, color, race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy, physical or mental ability, genetic information, veteran status, or gender identity.

4.2 Process for Establishing Membership

Students become members of ABAC ACT by completing a membership questionnaire and paying annual dues. Membership runs from August 1 to July 31 of the following year.

4.3 Membership Privileges

Only dues-paying members of ABAC ACT may vote in ABAC ACT club elections and business meetings. Only dues-paying members of ABAC ACT hold officer positions.

Membership in ABAC ACT includes membership in National ACT and as such provides all membership privileges bestowed by National ACT. Only dues-paying members of ABAC ACT may attend National ACT meetings and submit entries to Critique and Contest.

Article V: Membership Dues

5.1 Annual Review and Establishment of Dues

Annual chapter dues shall be reviewed by the Board each year and established accordingly.

5.2 Composition of Dues

Each member shall pay dues annually, a portion of which goes to National ACT for membership in the national organization. The remainder of dues collected goes to ABAC ACT.

5.3 Refunds

Dues will not be refunded to any member who is dropped from chapter membership for any reason. Partial refunds of dues will not be given to any member if the member does not wish to continue membership into the following semester or if the student graduates mid-year.

Article VI: Meetings

6.1 Club Meetings

The time and place of all club meetings will be chosen and scheduled by the Board. The Board will meet prior to business meetings to establish the agenda for meeting.

6.2 Officer Meetings

The Board will meet regularly to discuss club activities, membership recruitment, club promotion, fundraisers and other business matters. The President will establish the agenda for officer meetings.

Each officer has one vote. The President shall not vote except in the event of a tie. The faculty advisor(s) shall not vote.

6.3 Governance

All meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

Article VII: Club Finances and Governing Documents

7.1 Governing Documents

ABAC ACT shall be governed by its Constitution and Bylaws.

7.2 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall begin on August 1 and end on July 31.

7.3 Budget

Before the last day of August of each year, an itemized budget will be developed and approved by the Board.

7.4 Financial Records

Accurate financial records shall be maintained and made available for inspection by members upon request.

A copy of the current budget and Constitution will be submitted to the Dean of Students before August 31 of each year.

Article VIII: Board and Committees

8.1 ABAC ACT Board

The Board shall be composed of the officers and advisor(s) of the organization.

8.2 Officer Terms

The term of office shall be one academic year, and all officers shall be elected and installed by appropriate procedures at the last business meeting of the year. The term of office begins the day after Spring graduation of the academic year when the members were elected and ends the day of Spring graduation the following year.

8.3 Officer Positions

The officers of ABAC ACT Board shall be:

A. President
B. Vice President of Campus Involvement
C. Vice President of Member Engagement
D. Vice President of Communications
E. Vice President of Fundraising and Merchandise
F. Secretary / Treasurer

8.4 Eligibility

To serve as an officer of the ABAC ACT Board, the club member must meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in the club Bylaws.

8.5 Officer Duties

Each officer shall attend all club meetings, as well as actively recruit and retain club members, in addition to fulfilling the specific responsibilities of their position. Each officer shall also create and maintain a record of actions taken during their term.

8.5.1 Duties of the President

The President is responsible for aligning ABAC ACT activities with its mission and vision, leading the club toward its goals and ensuring club compliance with all ABAC mandated protocols. The President shall set meeting agendas, preside over all meetings and follow parliamentary procedure. The President shall also serve as a liaison to National ACT.

8.5.2 Duties of the Vice President of Campus Involvement

The Vice President of Campus Involvement (VPCI) is responsible for coordinating the engagement of ABAC ACT within the greater campus community. The VPCI shall register the club for campus events as approved by the Board and ensure adequate member attendance and/or participation.

The VPCI shall represent ABAC ACT at all RSO meetings and disseminate pertinent information gathered from these meetings to Board and/or club members.

8.5.3 Duties of the Vice President of Member Engagement

The Vice President of Member Engagement (VPME) is responsible for fostering a culture of participation among club members. The VPME shall plan and execute club meetings, events and activities, adhering to all ABAC mandated protocols. The VPME shall schedule all club events in compliance with ABAC registered student organization mandates.

8.5.4 Duties of the Vice President of Communications

The Vice President of Communications (VPC) is responsible for raising the visibility of the club, its members and its activities to ABAC, the community and beyond. The VPC shall manage the club's online and social media presence, document events through photography, create promotional materials and liaise with relevant faculty members to arrange speaking engagements.

All collateral must adhere to all ABAC mandated protocols and ABAC ACT brand guidelines.

8.5.5 Duties of the Vice President of Fundraising and Merchandise

The Vice President of Fundraising and Merchandise (VPFM) is responsible for driving the organization's financial objectives forward. The VPFM shall generate fundraising ideas to present to the Board for consideration. Upon approval, the VPFM oversees the implementation of these fundraisers, ensuring their smooth execution. The VPFM shall also oversee the production of club merchandise. The VPFM shall provide fundraising updates as well as sales and inventory reports at each meeting.

8.5.6 Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for maintaining club records. The S/T shall create and maintain a record containing minutes from each club meeting. The S/T shall work with the Faculty Advisor(s) to keep an accurate record of all funds and assets that belong to ACT. The Secretary/Treasurer shall provide a report each monthly meeting.

8.6 Committees

The Board may form committees, and recruit members to serve on these committees, to assist in the process of club operations. Committees may be either standing or ad hoc.

Article IX: Advisor

9.1 RSO Compliance

The advisor(s) will ensure the club complies with all ABAC registered student organization mandates.

9.2 Meeting Attendance

The advisor(s) will attend club and officer meetings, keeping members informed of curriculum and departmental changes, as well as upcoming competitions and internships.

The advisor(s) will facilitate member attendance at regional and national meetings. The advisor(s) will attend these meetings with members, as available, at no expense to the club.

9.2 National ACT Officers

The chapter advisor(s) will act as the national advisor to any member of the chapter elected to a National ACT office.

Article X: Voting and Elections

10.1 Voting

Each dues-paying member is eligible to vote in any matter concerning the club and to one vote for each candidate for office.

10.2

Candidates running for office may vote for themselves.

10.3

In the case of a tie vote, the president shall break the tie.

10.4

The faculty advisor(s) may not vote.

Section XI: Hazing

In accordance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA), ABAC ACT will comply with all sections of the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Hazing Policy.

Federal Definition of Hazing

"Hazing" is defined under the Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that—

1. is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization; and
2. causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury including—
   a) whipping, beating, striking, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on someone's body, or similar activity;
   b) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, extreme calisthenics, or other similar activity;
   c) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to consume food, liquid, alcohol, drugs, or other substances;
   d) causing, coercing, or otherwise inducing another person to perform sexual acts;
   e) any activity that places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or conduct;\
   f) any activity against another person that includes a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law; and
   g) any activity that induces, causes, or requires another person to perform a duty or task that involves a criminal violation of local, State, Tribal, or Federal law.

Article XII: Amendments to the Constitution

12.1 Motions to Amend

Motions to amend this constitution can be made at any meeting. All motions to amend must have a second. After discussion, voting on the amendment must be tabled until the next general membership meeting.

12.3 Voting to Amend

Amendments must receive approval by a majority vote of the dues-paying members in attendance to be ratified.

12.3 Submission

The amended constitution shall be submitted within 10 days to Dean of Students.

Date Ratified:

Date Revised: August 24, 2026

Lydia Hill, ABAC ACT President

Austin Moore, ABAC ACT Co-Advisor

Sharon Wagner, ABAC ACT Co-Advisor