

**CONSTITUTION OF
STUDENTS FOR A POSITIVE ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EAST BALTIMORE COMMUNITY (SPARC)
AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Article I
Name of Group**

1. The name of this group shall be **Students for a Positive Academic PaRtnership with the East Baltimore Community (SPARC)**.

**Article II
Purpose**

1. SPARC is a JHSPH student advocacy group promoting greater institutional commitment to the East Baltimore community. SPARC advocates for:

a. Improved training opportunities in community-based research and public health practice for JHSPH students through sustained, reciprocal community-academic partnerships; and

b. A greater investment of JHSPH institutional resources for supporting East Baltimore community organizations and improving the health of East Baltimore residents.

2. SPARC envisions an institutional commitment at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) to improving the health of the East Baltimore community through sustained, reciprocal community-academic partnerships based upon a foundation of mutual respect and trust.

3. SPARC considers the Student Outreach Resource Center (SOURCE) to be an essential partner in its work.

**Article III
Composition of SPARC**

1. **Officers.** The Board shall consist of—

a. A Chair or two co-Chairs

b. An Executive Committee comprised of no more than 10 members (including the Chair or co-Chairs)

2. **Members.** Membership is open to all members of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health community.

3. **Committees.** SPARC shall have two standing committees—
- a. The curriculum committee works to integrate increased opportunities for community-based and practice-based scholarship and training into the JHSPH curriculum. This committee also encourages the recruitment and retention of more faculty members whose activities focus on academic public health practice and community-based work.
 - b. The mobilization committee works to raise awareness among JHSPH students, faculty, and staff about issues pertaining to the East Baltimore community, with a particular focus on the role that JHSPH plays in the East Baltimore community.

Article IV Officers

1. **Duties.** The duties of the officers of the board shall be as follows:
 - a. The Chair or co-Chairs shall facilitate meetings and events; maintain or manage the web page, which includes uploading files and other contents; be responsible for email accounts (sending and receiving); plan agendas for meetings; plan and schedule executive board meetings and execute other duties as needed.
 - b. The Executive Board members shall actively participate in at least one of the group's two committees. Executive Board members shall attend SPARC board and open meetings. When appropriate, Executive Board members will help to plan and facilitate events.
2. **Qualifications.** SPARC's Chair or co-Chairs can be students from any degree-granting program at JHSPH. Executive Board members can be students, faculty, or staff affiliated with JHSPH. Because of the group's mission and its reliance on institutional memory, for all SPARC positions preference is given to those who will be in Baltimore for more than 1 year and/or to those who are actively engaged in East Baltimore community issues.
3. **Term.** SPARC's Chair or co-Chairs will serve a term of one year (beginning in May), with the option to remain Chair or co-Chairs for a second year. Executive Board members will serve a term of one year (beginning in May), with the option to remain an Executive Board member in subsequent years.
4. **Removal.** Chairs and Executive Board members can be removed by a unanimous vote of the full Executive Board. Removal will occur if a Chair or Executive Board member fails to perform his or her specified duties and/or fails to participate in SPARC events and/or committees.
5. **Vacancies.** If an officer vacancy exists, the position can be filled by application to the Executive Board. Interested applicants can submit a brief (one paragraph) statement, or give a

brief (five minute) presentation to the board, explaining their interest in joining SPARC's board. The Executive Board will then vote, with consensus necessary to determine the result.

Article V Elections

1. **Frequency.** Each April, SPARC's Executive Board, which includes the group's Chair or co-Chairs, will convene to evaluate who will be returning to the group the following year. If spots are going to open up, the Executive Board will begin accepting applications from those interested in serving on the Executive Board.

2. **Nomination Procedures.** The nomination procedure for new Executive Board members is detailed above in the section describing how vacancies are filled. Chairs or co-Chairs can self-nominate. If more than one person would like to become a Chair or co-Chair, the Executive Board will vote, with a majority vote determining the winner.

Article VI Meetings

1. **Frequency of open meetings.** Open meetings occur at least once per term. These are group organizational meetings and all members are encouraged to attend. Minutes from these meetings are available upon request.

2. **Frequency of officer meetings.** Officer meetings are held at least once per term for approximately one hour.

3. **Notice of meeting schedule.** The meeting schedule will be posted on the SPARC website at the beginning of the academic year and/or disseminated through the SPARC listserv.

Article VII Amending the Constitution

1. **Procedure for recommending amendment.** Any SPARC Executive Board member may recommend amending the group's constitution.

2. **Procedure for voting on amendments.** Amendments will be voted on by Executive Board members (all board members must be present for such a vote). At least two-thirds of the board members must vote in favor of the amendment for its passage.