CONSTITUTION

OF

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, UMUAHIA

OLD BOYS’ ASSOCIATION

(GCUOBA)

(AS AMENDED)

**We The Old Boys of Government College Umuahia**

**Having Resolved freely and solemnly**

To form an Association of Ex-students of the GOVERNMENT COLLEGE UMUAHIA (‘The College’).

To assist in the welfare of our Alma Mater, students and teachers for the time being therein in particular and ourselves and mankind in general

To establish and administer The Fisher Educational Development Trust (‘The Trust’) with the vision and purpose of restructuring, administering and managing the College handed-over to the Old Boys of Government College Umuahia (GCUOBA) by the Abia State Government

AND to strive for the continued maintenance of high standards in all spheres of endeavour through hard work and uncompromising forthrightness

DO HEREBY make and Give To ourselves the following Constitution

 **CHAPTER 1**

**AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

1. The aims and objectives of the Association include:
2. To assist in the promotion of the welfare of our alma mater, students and teachers, as well as ourselves and mankind in general
3. To establish The Fisher Educational Development Trust with the vision and purpose of restructuring, administering and managing Government College Umuahia which was handed over to the Old Boys of Government College Umuahia by the Abia State Government.
4. To strive for the continued maintenance of high standards in all spheres of human endeavor through hard work and uncompromising forthrightness
5. To maintain good relationship, comradeship and high standard of etiquette among members and
6. Other matters as may from time to time affect the welfare of members

**CHAPTER 2**

**COMPOSITION**

1. (1) The Association shall consist of a National or Parent Body and the Branches.
2. The National Body shall be supreme in all matters affecting the Association, its Constituents, Policies and Objectives and to the extent that there is any inconsistency in decisions, constitutions and actions of the National Body and a Branch on a common question, that of the Branch shall remain void.
3. A Branch shall be constituted by at least 5 financial members and shall be entitled to make its own rules or constitution, elect officers, raise funds and carry out all such activities that are within the spirit and intendment of this Constitution.

**CHAPTER 3**

**MEMBERSHIP**

3(1) Membership shall be open to all Branches of the Association throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria and overseas.

 (2) Direct membership shall only be extended to all such persons domiciled in localities where there are no Branches, who themselves, shall have been enrolled as students of the College for an aggregate period of not less than two academic years, provided always that such persons who have been so enrolled for not less than one academic year can by a special dispensation of the National Executive Committee be admitted to membership.

 (3) Membership by Branches shall be free upon Application and Recognition by the National Executive Committee provided again that Registration Fees, Dues, and Levies (not being retrospective) for the time being in force shall become due and payable by the member Branch upon admission.

 (4) Honourary members shall upon the recommendation of the National Executive Committee be admitted by the General House at an Annual General meeting

**CHAPTER 4**

**OFFICERS OF THE ASSOICATION AND THEIR FUNCTIONS**

4(1) The Association shall have the following Officers elected for a term of two years in the 1st instance and renewable for another term of two years (i.e a total consecutive term of not more than four years), provided however that a person who has served two terms of four years in a particular Office, can serve in another Office.

1. NATIONAL PRESIDENT

He shall be the alter ego, the Chief Executive and spokesman of the Association, preside at all meetings and shall be a signatory to the Association’s Account. He shall be the Chairman of The Fisher Educational Development Trust.

1. 1ST NATIONAL VICE PERSIDENT

In addition to other duties herein he shall perform the functions of the National President in his absence, or take his place in the event of any incapacitation or resignation until a Bi-Election can be held and shall from time to time perform such functions as may be assigned to him by the National President. He shall be the Deputy Chairman of the Trust.

1. 2ND NATIONAL VICE PERSIDENT

He shall stand in for the 1st Vice President as and when the need arises on all such matters within the competence of the 1st Vice President, including acting for the President in the absence of the President and 1st Vice President. He shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the National President and the 1st Vice President.

1. NATIONAL SECRETARY

He shall summon all meetings after consultation with the President, or failing him his Vice; prepare the Agenda for such meetings, take minutes, keep and maintain the Association’s Secretariat and as far as possible, author or countersign all external correspondences of the Association. He shall be the Secretary of the Trust.

(e) ASSISTANT NATIONAL SECRETARY

He shall perform the duties of the Secretary in his absence and shall from time to time perform such functions as the National Secretary may assign to him. He shall be the Assistant Secretary of the Trust.

1. NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY

He shall keep a record of all Income and Expenditure of the Association, collect Dues and Levies, chair the Finance Committee; verify and authenticate all Vouchers prior to expenditure and shall be a signatory to the Association’s Bank Account.

1. NATIONAL TREASURER

He shall keep all monies due the Association as may be handed in by the Financial Secretary or any member and pay the same into the Association’s Bank Account within 72 hours of Receipt, issue Receipts thereafter, authenticate all Vouchers and be a signatory to the Association’s Account, provided always that either the Treasurer or the Financial Secretary together with the President shall be sufficient for purposes of withdrawals from the said Account.

1. NATIONAL WELFARE OFFICER

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

 (i) NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY

He shall be responsible for the publicity of all activities of the Association and subject to prior consultation with the National President and National Secretary, issue duly endorsed press releases in support or opposition to any issue whatsoever that may affect the goals of the Association or College.

 (j) NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

He shall advise the National Executive Committee and the Association on all matters touching on the Laws of the Land and such other functions incidental to his profession as may be referred to him from time to time by the Association. He shall be the Legal Adviser of the Trust.

**CHAPTER 5**

**ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

5(1) The Association shall have the following Organs whose Secretariat shall be at the College with satellite Office at the places where their respective Chairmen for the time being reside.

1. The General Assembly
2. The National Executive Committee
3. The Board of Trustees
4. Patrons
5. The Fisher Educational Development Trust

FUNCTIONS OF THE ORGANS

5(2) The General Assembly

1. Shall be the Highest Organ of the Association whose decision on any matter whatever shall be final and shall meet once a year at the Annual Home-coming except on absolute Emergency.
2. Every Member of the Association is eligible to attend individually or at Branch Level.
3. Subject to express provisions to the contrary elsewhere in this Constitution, shall Elect members of the National Executive Council, the Board of Trustees and Patrons by a simple majority of members present and voting on the principle of one man one vote, which principle shall regulate all decision making not specifically provided for otherwise elsewhere in this Constitution SAVE only that in the case of removal of such Officer(s) a vote of two-thirds of members present and voting shall be required.
4. Shall formulate, ratify amend or reject policies and decisions of the Association including approval of projects, budgets and such other matters as it may deem fit in its entire discretion, not touching on the name and continued existence (ownership and management excepted) of the College which shall not be negotiable.

5(3) THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)

1. Shall comprise all National Officers of the Association and Chairmen and Secretaries of all Branches. The Committee shall meet once in every quarter except on emergencies.
2. Shall constitute the implementation organ of the Association’s policies and projects with powers to set up Ad-Hoc Committees, authorize expenditure not exceeding N100,000.00 per quarter without prior approval from the General Assembly provided that, the prior consent of at least two Patrons and two members of the Board of Trustees shall have been sought and obtained in a written instrument.
3. Shall be responsible for the day to day running of the Association and shall indemnify the Association as they may severally be adjudged by the General Assembly liable for any decisions taken recklessly or in bad faith that damnifies the Association in terms of money or material.

5(4) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Shall comprise 5 members elected by 2/3 of members sitting and voting for a renewable term of 6 years, allowance being made for Accessibility Seniority. Status, Commitment, Integrity and Geographical spread of membership.
2. Shall have the powers to veto the National Executive Committee on any subject after consultation with at least 4 Patrons and shall not later than120 days thereafter cause the subject of the veto to be decided at an Emergency General Assembly convened for that purpose otherwise the veto shall lapse.

5(5) PATRONS

Shall comprise members elected for life with increases in membership each 5 years as the General Assembly may deem fit and in each case a nominee shall have been supported by a total of at least 3/5 (three fifths) of members sitting and voting at a General Assembly and may be removed by similar procedure with an option not to state any reason therefore. The Patrons shall be exempt from any financial obligation on their part except the same is volunteered.

1. The patrons shall act in an advisory capacity to the Association and its Organs, and shall where the need arise or if expressly requested directly represent the Association at High Governmental deputations and or negotiations.
2. In the event of any disagreement amongst the National Executive Committee inter se or any of the Organs of the Association, the Patrons shall constitute themselves into an arbitrating team whose decision shall hold good and binding on the Association unless and until it is overturned by a 2/3 majority of the members present and voting at a General Assembly. The powers herein conferred shall be exercisable notwithstanding the provision of clause 5(4)(b) above, Provided always that the decision of the Patrons under this head shall be by not less 2/3 majority of all of their number.

5(6) THE FISHER EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST

1. To achieve the objective of managing and administering Government College Umuahia handed over to GCUOBA by the Government of Abia State of Nigeria on the 22nd of November, 2014 this Constitution hereby recognizes and adopts the establishment by the GCUOBA, of The Fisher Educational Development Trust, formed and registered as the Incorporated Trustees of the Fisher Educational Development Trust on the 22nd of December, 2014
2. The National President the 1st Vice President, the National Secretary, the Assistant National Secretary, and the Legal Adviser of GCUOBA shall be the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, and the legal Adviser respectively, of the Trust.
3. In electing its Trustees the Trust shall take into consideration accessibility, seniority, status , commitment and geographical spread
4. The Trust shall manage and run the College, all Trust Deed, Endowment Funds, Trust Funds established in favour of the College
5. Without prejudice to its status as an organ of the Association The Fisher Educational Development Trust shall be a Corporate Entity on its own, with a Constitution governing its affairs and registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja.
6. The Board of Trustees of the Trust shall have the following Boards;
7. Board of Government
8. Board of Projects
9. Board of Management
10. Other bodies as may be created by the Trustees upon the approval of the Trust for the efficient and smooth management of the College.

 Whose membership shall be as stipulated in the Trust Constitution

**CHAPTER 6**

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

6(1) The following Standing Committees whose duties are only complementary to the National Executive Committee shall be established for the purposes and in the manner hereinafter appearing.

6(2) FINANCE COMMITTEE

 Shall comprise the Financial Secretary as Chairman, the 1st National Vice President, the Treasurer and other members with bias for figures elected from the floor by simple majority.

 (a) Shall take the responsibility for revenue generation and drive debt- Recovery, Donations, Levies, and make policy guidelines on expenditure and income for presentation to the General Assembly for approval and

 (b) Shall vet the National Executive Committee budget, carry out management accounts and ensure that the Association’s books and returns are as well kept.

6(3) PROJECT COMMITTEE

 Shall comprise the National President as Chairman, Assistant National Secretary, National Legal Adviser and three other members with bias for Engineering/Commerce elected from the floor by simple majority

1. Shall take responsibility for the drafting of contracts and other work Agreements with third parties
2. Shall superintend and see to the implementation of all projects the nature and cost of which has been approved by the General Assembly
3. Shall raise proposals to the National Executive Committee for such areas of the Association’s projects or the College that may require urgent attention.

6(4)WELFARE COMMITTEE

 Shall comprise the Welfare Officer as, Chairman, Secretaries of all Branches and three other members nominated from the Umuahia Branch as members.

1. Shall be responsible for the welfare of the members attending the Association’s functions within the guidelines set by the National Executive Committee.
2. Shall arrange and organize all Association’s Activities including but not limited to Annual General Meetings, Home-Coming, Jubilees, Fisher Cup contest and other social activities including Catering, Housing and Transport
3. Shall monitor and bring to the attention of the National Executive Committee matters of compassion, condolences, relief to needy students and members including scholarship.
4. Shall source for Endowment Funds, Trust Deeds, Prizes, Trophies and such other aids enhancing general welfare.

6(5)ADHOC COMMITTEES

 May be set up by the National Executive Committee or the General Assembly on any matter within their competence whose reports and recommendation shall only be advisory to the body establishing it e.g Audit, Elections, Discipline, Deputations, Condolence Purse, Honours, Certificates etc.

**CHAPTER 7**

**DISCIPLINE**

7(1) All members are bound to comply and conform to the strict sense of discipline established by the College and in the unlikely event of any act of infamy or conduct prejudicial to the Aims and integrity of the Association, the College or mankind, shall be subject to the following Disciplinary

 measures:-

1. Cautionary Letter
2. Suspension of membership for a term not exceeding two years
3. Loss of Membership

7(2) No member shall be subjected to any disciplinary measure (excepting Cautionary Letter) unless he has first been given an opportunity to defend himself before an Ad-hoc Committee set up by the General Assembly in a manner likely to ensure its fairness.

7(3) Notwithstanding the recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee the General Assembly shall have the exclusive discretion to impose whatever decision it may deem fit on any member the subject of inquiry PROVIDED that matters touching upon Criminal Law and Responsibility shall be expressly excluded from the brief of any Disciplinary Committee.

**CHAPTER 8**

**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

1. **AMENDMENT**

8(1) This Constitution can be amended or suspended in part by (3/5) three-fifths majority of members present, sitting and voting at a General Assembly, on a motion for that purpose, specifying the exact details of the amendment sought and circulated at least three calendar months in advance, before the meeting of the General Assembly.

8(2) INTERPRETATION

 **"GCUOBA"** Means Government College Umuahia Old Boys Association.

 **"Association"** Means GCUOBA, the National Body of the Government College, Umuahia Old Boys Association.

 **"The College"** Means Government College, Umuahia, presently at kilometer 6.45 (mile 4), Umuahia/Ikot Ekepene Road, Umuahia, Abia State.

 **"The Trust"** Means the Fisher Educational Development Trust

 **"Members"** Means a Branch or its constituent members.

 **"NEC"** Means the National Executive Committee.

 **"Voting"** Means a signification of support or opposition which shall be by a show of hand provided that an Electoral Commission may make its own rules, regulating this process; such as secret or open balloting.

All other words or expressions used herein, shall be given their-ordinary literary meaning in ordinary English parlance provided that any dual construction, shall be resolved by a simple majority.

This Constitution was read, passed and enacted at the General Assembly of the Association this 21st day of November 2020.

IN THE PRESENCE OF

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**BARR. UCHE IHEDIWA WISDOM IKOTA**

 **(PRESIDENT) (NATIONAL SECRETARY)**

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 **NKEM EGBUTA, ESQ.**

 **(LEGAL ADVISER)**