

Charter introduced and voted upon by the Board on Tuesday, March 9th, 2021

Student Government Board Election Procedures Review Task Force

Background:

The 2021 Student Government Board (SGB) election process brought forth a number of concerns and ideas from a broad spectrum of students at the University of Pittsburgh. These concerns and ideas are directed at a number of areas that are under the purview of the organization. These include the Elections Code, Judicial hearing procedures and associated aspects of the organization. In an effort to systematically review these concerns and ideas, the following task force is charged to review, deliberate, and ultimately report all relevant information regarding the 2021 Election and further steps to improve on policies and practices of SGB. The purpose and membership of this group will reflect the diversity of thought and perspectives necessary to get a deeper understanding of the past election and the long-term relationship between SGB procedures and the public at-large.

Purpose:

1. Review the events associated with Elections Committee enforcement actions during the 2021 SGB Election
2. Review the Student Government Board Elections Code
3. Gather input and feedback from the student body on ways to better conduct and communicate about elections and judicial proceedings
4. Reinforce public trust in SGB election procedures by increasing public access to information about the 2021 SGB Election and reviewing how existing procedures were applied

Membership:

Executive Chair: Eric Macadangdang

Vice Chairs:

1. Ben King
2. Katie Richmond

General Body Members:

3. Danielle Obisie-Orlu, Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences; Resident Student Association
4. Darren Campuzano, Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences; WPTS
5. Madelynn Lederer, Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences
6. Grace O'Malley, Swanson School of Engineering

Ex Officio Member (non-voting):

7. Steve Anderson, SGB Advisor; Associate Dean and Director of Residence Life

All non-ex officio members shall have equal voting rights, except that the Executive Chair shall only vote when their vote will make a difference in the outcome (i.e. any ties). All decisions of the Task Force shall be made by a simple majority of members present, with a quorum of a majority of members appointed.

Suggested Timeline:**Week 1: General Body Meeting and Overview of Work**

- Full membership meets to overview purpose and timeline of the task force, delegate tasks, and establish a means of collecting information
- Public Comment Period begins
- Direct outreach begins to Elections Committee Chair, Judicial Committee Chair, and slates and candidates directly involved Elections proceedings leading up to Election Day. This includes members of the Vision and Brightside slates.
- All task force members are to read and review the most current Elections Code

Week 2: Information Collection and Continuation of Public Comment Collection

- Public Comment Period remains open to the undergraduate student body and open forums are held for Elections and Judicial Committees
- Direct outreach to Elections Committee Chair, Judicial Committee Chair, and slates and candidates directly involved Elections proceedings leading up to Election Day concludes; written statements may also be submitted to supplement meetings and discussions.
- Executive Chair and Vice Chairs outreach to external stakeholders for subject-matter advice. This may include Student Affairs and other University offices and departments, along with any pertinent benchmarking.

Week 3: General Body Meeting and Review of Information and Comments

- Public Comment Period concludes
- Full membership convenes to review all information collected and begin discussing overarching themes and ideas to consider

Week 4: Formulation of Findings and Recommendations

- Full membership finalizes their set of recommendations for consideration by relevant committees and bodies within SGB and submits a report in full to the Board
- Executive Chair and Vice Chairs decide on any external considerations that need to be developed further. This may include further work done at the discretion of the 2021-2022 SGB President and Board.

Goals:

1. Produce a report detailing all factors related to Elections Committee actions during the election and addressing concerns about the elections process brought forth by students
2. Provide suggestions for revisions to the Elections Code or other parts of the Governing Code to better support the Elections Committee in future elections
3. Provide any further suggestions to improve on communications and transparency of any SGB-related matters that are time sensitive

Expiration:

This charter shall expire May 2, 2021, or upon the submission of the final report of the task force to the Board, whichever comes first. Any further work set out by the task force will be transitioned fully to the incoming Board and President.