

Charter introduced and voted upon by the Board on Tuesday, March 16th, 2021

Student Government Board Students of Color in Solidarity (SOCS) Task Force

Mission:

The Students of Color in Solidarity (SOCS) Task Force works to build a community amongst communities of color at the University of Pittsburgh. In this community, we hold a safe space for vulnerable, introspective, and meaningful conversations about our specifically underserved and underrepresented groups at Pitt. By openly discussing how we, as student leaders, can better support each other and promote sustainable collaboration amongst our groups, we will also work together to develop a more unified voice with which to approach the University for additional support. With acknowledging the specific needs of different communities, the ultimate goal of this task force is to build solidarity amongst students of color within the University, a primarily white institution, and promote a sustainable, collaborative community.

Membership:

SGB Representatives:

1. Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
 - a. Should the chair choose to do so, they may delegate this role to a vice chair
 - b. Role includes: scheduling and leading meetings, sharing information through public meetings, directing issues to the correct department/person, working closely with board liaison for the best course of actions, being the lead representative for staff and faculty.
2. SGB Diversity and Inclusion Board Liaison
 - a. Role includes: help push goals and initiatives on board, assist D&I chair in the leading of meetings, creating talking points, guiding the conversation. Being a representative to higher administration for students of color needs on campus.

Interested Student Organizations:

1. African Students Organization (ASO)
2. Asian Student Alliance (ASA)
3. Black Action Society (BAS)
4. Pan-Caribbean Alliance (PCA)
5. Latinx Student Association (LSA)
6. South Asian Students Association (SASA)

7. Alliance of Queer and Underrepresented Asians in Recognition of Intersectionality to Uphold Solidarity (AQUARIUS)

What constitutes a member:

1. An organization that represents a community of color that is underrepresented at Pitt.
2. Must attend 2 meetings per semester unless specific reason otherwise is given
3. Must have at least 1-2 representatives at each meeting
4. This does not necessarily have to be the same member at each meeting
5. Must be SORC recognized unless otherwise voted on by the task force's current membership in a given year

How to join:

1. For interested groups, please email pittdiversityandinclusion@gmail.com with the following information:
 - a. Organization
 - b. Mission statement
 - c. Purpose of joining
 - d. Goals within the group
2. The current cohort will vote on acceptance into the task force. Votes need to be 2/3rds in favor for approval.

Suggested Timeline:

Within a semester:

- Set up a system of communication among organizations that represent groups of color who are underrepresented at Pitt

Within a designated amount of time specified through task force voting:

- Create action items for the University, initiated by student leaders of color articulating their needs
- Create a set of responsibilities for organizations that represent groups of color who are underrepresented at Pitt for the community
- Implementation of these responsibilities discussed the year prior

Every year:

- At the beginning of the Fall semester, the task force shall vote on the need for active participation in this collective. Should the group vote be unanimously in agreement

of disbanding, the Diversity and Inclusion Chair will table this task force unless needed again.

Goals: *goals may change per membership cohorts as they deem important*

1. Collaboration: Within the task force, collaboration will emerge naturally from the essence of the organization as well as through implemented strategies to encourage partnership and comradery among members. This spirit of collaboration could have a ripple effect as members could spread these strategies beyond the context of the task force and to their respective groups, clubs, associations, etc. in order to strengthen collaboration campus-wide.
2. Communication: Communication among student groups of color on Pitt's campus is essential, yet there is no central way to implement this. Centralized under the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Taskforce will be a place for this communication among student groups of color to take place on campus. Members can share resources, events, and plan ways to collaborate, encouraging a campus community that unites rather than divides students of color.
3. Connectedness: connectedness is the all-encompassing goal to provide true solidarity among students of color at a predominantly white institution. By increasing collaboration and communication, overall connectedness would improve, fostering a strong and united group of student leaders of color. This connectedness would provide a safe space for these leaders to express their concerns and have a team of other leaders to offer support. In the end, this would also increase cross-cultural empathy and understanding.

Potential Goals: Though they are not the initial purpose of the task force, there are many other goals that could be achieved down the line regarding student-to-University relations. For example, the implementation of leadership and support roles for students of color within specific academic programs could be a potential idea for students of color to serve as a bridge to faculty and staff in expressing their concerns. Though the potential goals of the taskforce are ultimately up to the members of the taskforce, this is merely one example to implement equity into the University's curricula and practices.

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 taskforce will be fully transitioned to the incoming Board and President.