

Proud Colors Constitution

PREAMBLE

We the queer of color community of Columbia University, in Order to form a more perfect union, to promote the advancement of the queer of color community both inside and outside Columbia University, to increase knowledge about this community, and to protest injustices that this community faces, do ordain and establish this constitution for the Proud Colors.

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization, formerly the Queers of Color or QOC, shall henceforth be Proud Colors.

ARTICLE II

1. The purpose for which Proud Colors is formed is herein stated:

The overall objective of Proud Colors is to implement a comprehensive action program to promote an understanding of the past, present, and future experiences, problems, and needs of queer students of color as well as the queer of color community as a whole. Moreover, Proud Colors intends to develop effective methods of dealing with these problems. Proud Colors is an organization for individuals at Columbia University who identify as bisexual, gay, lesbian, queer, those of transgendered experience, or two spirit. We aspire to continue the tradition started by Queers of Color, which was officially recognized in 1994 by the Student Governing Board of Earl Hall, and later by the Activities Board of Columbia in 1999. One of the functions of Proud Colors is to further knowledge and acceptance of the queer of color community through discussions, lectures, and other social events. Proud Colors also serves as an independent social, political, support, and discussion group and welcomes all people concerned with the advancement of the interests of queer people of color including Columbia College, SEAS, Barnard, General Studies, and graduate school students and affiliates.

2. Other objectives are:
 1. To provide a structure through which training, services, and programs can be channeled in the best interests of the queer student of color, the Columbia Community, and the queer of color community as a whole.
 2. To enhance the ability of the queer student of color to cope with the pressing demands of college life through academic assistance, career counseling, and social interaction and support.
 3. To enhance and promote the historical and social implications of the queer of color community and to increase the understanding of this community within Columbia University.

4. To provide a vehicle through which the queer of color community at Columbia University may express desires and opinions in order to have an impact on Columbia's campus.
5. To form and uphold ties with Columbia Alumni who have ties to the queer of color community.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of Proud Colors is open to all students, faculty, administrators, and general staff of all undergraduate and graduate schools associated with Columbia University. Proud Colors will not deny membership to any willing members in the greater New York community not affiliated with Columbia University.
 1. In order to be considered a voting member of Proud Colors, an individual must regularly attend meetings, missing no more than five general body meetings per semester, and must actively participate in events and activities associated with the organization.
 2. Non-Voting members of Proud Colors are those who do not fulfill the requirements of voting members. These individuals may enjoy the same privileges as voting members, with the exception of the right to vote in elections.
 3. Membership can be revoked if a member shows blatant disregard for the constitution of Proud Colors or for the organization and its members. Before membership is revoked, a member is entitled to attend a hearing before the executive board during which he/she may plead his/her case before the board. The future of his/her membership is determined by a vote of the executive board, the majority decision being the determining factor.

ARTICLE III: Executive Board

Only individuals holding voting member status will be eligible to hold executive positions. Administrative input from the group as a whole will be encouraged as the structure of the group aims to avoid a hierarchy. In this manner, members of the board and students at large are able to have a system of voting in which all votes are equal.

1. The officers of Proud Colors will be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
2. Executive Board members are required to attend all meetings, both Executive Board Meetings and General Body Meetings unless they have a valid excuse.
3. The duties of the officers are as follows:
 1. President:
 1. The President will preside over all meetings, both executive and general body. Upon request, other members of the executive board may facilitate general body meetings instead of the president.
 2. The President will be responsible for creating the agenda for executive board meetings. The agenda for General Body

meetings will be decided upon by the Executive Board as a whole.

3. The President will sign all notes, warrants, and orders for the disbursement of funds.
2. Vice- President:
 1. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will preside over executive and general body meetings.
 2. The Vice-President will aid the President in his/her duties.
3. Secretary:
 1. The Secretary will take minutes for all executive board and general body meetings.
 2. The Secretary will maintain an updated list of the membership of the organization.
 3. The Secretary will be responsible for forwarding all notices and announcements of Proud Colors to the members.
 4. The Secretary will take attendance at all meetings.
4. Treasurer:
 1. The Treasurer will have the care and responsibility of all funds of Proud Colors. He/She will keep an accurate and updated record of all Proud Colors' monetary transactions including checks, cash, and other financial material.
4. Individual members may not violate the democratic authority in the following ways: 1) acquiring an external bank account under the name of Proud Colors; 2) obtaining any type of credit for use of Proud Colors; 3) obtaining a bank safety deposit for Proud Colors; 4) obtaining a loan for the use of Proud Colors; 5) using the name of Proud Colors without proper consent from the governing body.

ARTICLE IV: PROCEDURAL OPERATIONS

1. General Body Meetings will be held bi-monthly and executive board meetings will be held the on Sunday evening before the General Body meeting is scheduled to take place.
2. Special meetings can be held whenever deemed necessary by the Executive Board, the President, or the Vice-President.
3. Voting:
 1. At all meetings where a vote takes place, each voting member has only one vote.
 2. Voting members must be present at the meeting in order to vote, no absentee votes will be considered.
 3. Proud Colors will follow the decision made by the majority vote of the General Body and/or the Executive Board at General Body meetings and Executive Board meetings respectively. The majority is understood as fifty-one percent (51%) of the voting members present during the vote.
1. Elections:

1. The election of all officers and Executive Board members will take place annually, no later than the third week of April.
2. A full term consists of the time between two subsequent Days of Commencement.
3. All members are eligible for nomination; however, only voting members may participate in the voting process.
2. In the event that an individual either renounces an executive position or is dismissed from his/her position, a temporary officer may be appointed until an election can be held. This election will take place in addition to the annual election; and the appointed or elected member will hold the office until the following annual election.
3. Impeachment of officers can occur if he/she does not fulfill his/her duties as outlined in Article III, or if he/she is involved in actions or activities that are unbecoming of an officer.
4. Impeachment/Dismissal Procedures:
 1. Formal, typewritten charges will be presented to the Executive Board and later to the General Body
 2. The case will be open to discussion
 3. The General Body renders a decision, either retention or dismissal, by two-thirds majority vote.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be altered, amended, repealed, or changed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board and the General Body at a meeting following proposed changes.

ARTICLE VI: DISCRIMINATION

Proud Colors will not cater to any religious denomination or political party. Proud Colors will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, identity, sexuality, religion, political affiliation, or ethnic affiliation.

ARTICLE VII: CO-SPONSORSHIP

The governing board shall decide upon co-sponsorship of any event. At a meeting of the Executive Board the decision of co-sponsorship will be decided by a majority vote.