

The Request of the Black Students at Towson University

We, the black students of Towson University, come with burdened bodies to your door steps. We come as living testament to the narratives shared on November 11th, where with tears and rage, we stood together and publicly revealed the oppressive occurrences that we experience on the daily as black students of this institution. Among these have included: egg shells and racial slurs being thrown out of windows; racial slurs being shouted at house parties; sexual and racial epithets from classroom professors; lack of representation in black faculty on the tenure track; lack of cultural competency in our peers and professors; the discontinuation of the Towson Debate Team; etc, etc. We are gathered here today to make known and make clear that Towson University has failed at providing a safe space for the black students at this University. We are gathered today to work with the administration, whose checks are signed with the money from our tuition, towards a more critical, honest, and inclusive campus for all Towson University Students. We are gathered here today to request sincere and swift institutional changes.

Among these are:

1. Increasing the tenured and tenure-track black faculty and retaining them by 10% by 2018.
Fall 2018
2. Require the President to work with the Provost to ensure that every college or department has one meeting per semester dedicated to CSD cultural competency content approved by a student representative that works in the CDSO.
Fall 2016
3. Advocate for IFC Fraternities and Pan-Hellenic Sororities to have a Diversity Chair who will promote diversity within their respective organizations and interact with multicultural organizations on campus.
Spring 2016
4. Send a letter to the President of USM Student Council regarding the review and termination of the contract, vendoring, and purchasing of appliances, tools, furniture and any other items produced within Maryland State and Federal prisons. Given the status of the prison-industrial complex and the criminalization of black bodies, along with the school-to-prison pipeline, we find it problematic that we finance the same institution that profit off of black bodies.
Spring 2016
5. Advocate to require the SGA to maintain communication with the Diverse Organizations and their leaders on campus through physical contact, wherein bills and policies that will effect the black student body will be made known and aware to them.
ASAP / Fall 2015
6. Require the President's Diversity Coordinating Council and other institution-wide diversity committees to have diverse (including multi-cultural) representation on the committee that reflects the underrepresented cultures of the student body.
Fall 2016
7. Set an expectation to diversify the representation of the committees determining tenure at Towson and require college deans to report on their efforts and results. Such efforts could include but are not limited to: Encourage students to complete course evaluations in course syllabi; Invite student feedback for pending tenure cases; Provide the opportunity for faculty tenure candidates to identify an advocate to serve on any level of their choosing in the tenure process.
Fall 2016

8. Advocate for the Director Positions in the SGA to be elected by the people of this university instead of appointed, hired, and/or interviewed by the President. The Diversity Chair is a direct representative of the minority students and should be elected directly by and for minority students.
Spring 2016
9. Return the Towson University Debate Team to a traveling debate team as soon as possible and no later than Fall 2016. The Debate Team is an intellectual fixture in the Towson University black community where black students have been nationally successful and active contributors to bringing justice to black people at this institution.
Fall 2016
10. Honestly and strictly enforce the university's policies on non-discrimination. Proactively work to create a marketing campaign to educate and communicate our Hate/Bias procedures and response. Distribute a public statement on Towson University's response on those issues when they occur. Publicly. The mental and emotional health of this University's black students across all intersections need to be taken as seriously as their physical health.
ASAP / Fall 2015
11. Require that policing practices be equitable for black events and white events alike,
Spring 2016
12. Advocate for the establishment of a course requirement in American race relations for students by meeting with the necessary and appropriate entities (such as the Curriculum Committee, University Senate, MHEC, USM, etc).
Fall 2016

I, hereby certify that I have heard the voices of the black students of Towson University. By signing my signature on the line below, I am promising to: 1) Release a public statement within 24 hours acknowledging the demands and my sincere effort to commit to actively advocate and implement these concerns. 2) Begin immediately working on continuing communication with the black student body and moving forward in addressing the issues outlined above. By signing my signature on the line below I am acknowledging that in the event that I do not keep my promise and begin to address these concerns, I will resign as president of this University for failing to effectively represent black students.

x


