

**From:** [Campus Climate Proposal form](#)  
**To:** [Libby Peterek](#); [Carrie Olson](#)  
**Subject:** New submission from Campus Climate Proposals  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:38:36 PM

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**What is your affiliation with UW-Madison? For group submissions, please respond for main contact.**

- Faculty

**Describe the concept. If already in use here or elsewhere, please indicate this.**

1. Have a required freshman program where you have to learn about ethnic climate on campus before you start classes.
2. Another idea would be to incorporate diversity exposure to the curriculum.
3. One of our members had the idea of creating a "FIG" or first year interest group related to diversity and positive ethnic practices for how to deal with diversity.
4. The final idea we discussed is welcome week events and dorm events throughout the year that have residence halls get together and go out and volunteer in diverse areas of the greater Madison community.

**How would this affect cultural change on campus?**

build trust across groups, increase awareness and cultural competence

1. This way before they start classes they would be able to learn about campus climates regarding racial issues that exist at UW- Madison.
2. This would be beneficial because although the UW-Madison campus itself has a lack of diversity, the city and surrounding areas of Madison have a large amount of diversity in many areas. If the students here could be exposed to that and have the ability to work with these diverse people, they may become more tolerant of diversity and willing to take part in making a change.
3. This FIG would include different ways to learn about these topics and be exposed to more diverse groups of people.
4. This would be a great way to bond as a floor and get to know one another during welcome week, while also exposing new students to the diversity that surrounds them and by working with these people, will help them to realize that the diverse community is something to embrace.

Overall, we believe exposure is key. So many students here come from small Wisconsin towns that have no diversity, so they may be afraid of it. If they are exposed to it in positive ways, they will likely become

more tolerant of people's diverse aspects and willing to embrace diversity.

**For new ideas, how would you propose piloting this idea to see if it would work? If the idea is already in use at UW-Madison, how would you propose expanding or altering this program for greater impact?**

1. This would take place as part of "SOAR" and would resemble existing freshman programs such as "Tonight" or the alcohol training.
2. One way this could be implemented is through increased service learning incorporated in the curriculum. For example, a service learning class could go work with schools in Madison to get to know some of the diverse community members while giving back to the community. In addition to the increased service learning availability, it is also worth into looking into requiring a service learning course for graduation requirements so all students have a chance for these exposures and community building before they leave this university.
3. see above
4. see above

**What resources would be needed to implement your suggestion?**

more resources for SOAR, targeted funding for course development that addresses climate issues

**If this proposal was developed in partnership with any other organizations, please list them below.**

This was a set of proposals by undergraduate students in [REDACTED].

**Please use this space for any additional information about your proposal that you wish to share:**

I would be happy to discuss how to develop any of these proposals further if there is interest.