

## Student Affairs Diversity Committee

6/03/2020

**Members Present:** Joy Pulsifer, Lindsay Barber, Nick Campau, Kaitlin Zies, Angela Roman, Ashley Schulte, Mark Schuelke, Sarah Doherty, Angela Garrey, Angela Palmer, and Kylie Piette

### **Reactions to the University-Wide Diversity and Inclusion meeting:**

There were approximately 100 people who attended a Zoom meeting that was held today from 10 am – 12 pm. Some observations and reflections shared from our Diversity Committee members who attended are as follows:

- Those who are African American expressed their feelings that they do not feel safe in Big Rapids.
- Attendees expressed that they would like to see more representation in our faculty, staff, and students.
- Attendees expressed wanting to see back up to support the change in which Ferris says they are committed to.
- We are at a critical juncture now and need to come up with action items.
- There was an idea suggested during the large meeting to have a townhall where members of the police community are present to talk about ways that they are keeping the campus safe for our students of color.
- There is a disconnect in the things we talk about as opposed to the things we act upon.
- Instead of engaging in defense, we should simply change and do better.
- There was a suggestion to create a coalition to react to issues immediately.

Dr. Pilgrim announced that there will be a townhall meeting held on June 8<sup>th</sup> where more information will be provided.

### **Enough is Enough Rally on Campus:**

There is a rally scheduled today on campus from 4-6 pm. The parking lot across from FLITE is available for parking. People have donated money to support Byron, the student who coordinated this event, to purchase face masks, water, and snacks. They are currently working to find sound equipment/assistance. There are scheduled speakers for the event, including Bruce Borkovich and Dr. Pilgrim. The Facebook post states that the rally will begin in parking lot 1, starting at the UC.

### **Call to Action in President's Message:**

The words, Black Lives Matter," requires action. What are some things we can do?

Feedback from the committee included:

- Something this big demands a big response; however, sometimes the smaller things can be of importance and impactful too. Lindsay shared that she has asked her staff to be conscience and intentional in recognizing health disparities amongst our minority students. She has asked them to be more informed and work to welcome and provide health care access to our minority students.
- Create an engagement initiative by first asking our students what they would like for us to do for them or how we can support them, and then react to these suggestions.
- Collect data and information by conducting an intentional climate survey.

**Upcoming Actions:**

Joy asked the committee to think about how we support our colleagues in understanding, getting involved, and ways that they can do their jobs effectively in an inclusive way. What are a few concrete actions we can commit to in Student Affairs over the next month? Please bring your thoughts to our next meeting. Joy will look for times where we can meet in the next two weeks to discuss further.

Submitted by Angela Palmer, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Student Life