ESF

MESSAGE
FROM THE INTERIM
PRESIDENT

Nov. 20, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to all who attended the recent Open Forum hosted by the Baobab Society and the Undergraduate Student Association and/or the Teach-in activities. Members of the Executive Cabinet and I received positive feedback regarding the strong showing of support by faculty and staff. Good discussions have begun, but there remains much important work to do.

I know you may be feeling anxious about what is happening around us. I am concerned about all the members in our community – our students, faculty and staff.

Today I ask for your assistance. Our community is anxious about the events happening around us - both those events we can confirm have occurred as well as the myriad of unfounded rumors making their way through student group chats, social media outlets and by word of mouth. I encourage you to consider implementing any/all of the following suggestions:

1. Check in with students via email, Blackboard, your class listservs, in class, etc. Ask how they are doing. Share your concerns if you are able. Your genuine concern for their welfare will be appreciated.
2. There are many students who are concerned for their safety. They have communicated to me and to others that they are struggling and are having difficulty focusing on their academic responsibilities. Consider requests from students for flexibility regarding their academic responsibilities.
3. Make yourself aware of and encourage students to use the many resources through Syracuse University and our campus including the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of International Education, ESF Counseling Services, ESF University Police (for safety escorts on the ESF campus), and Syracuse University Department of Public Safety (for safety escorts on and off campus).
4. Encourage students to check their syr.edu email regularly as this is the College's official means of communication. Additionally, we have created a new link on the College's homepage to provide the latest updates and campus resources regarding the bias incidents.
5. Reach out if you need assistance and encourage others to do the same. Ignore rumors and seek the facts.

6. Practice self-care and encourage others to do the same. Get enough sleep, try to eat well, exercise, and take care of yourself as best you can.

Here are several resources you may find helpful:

- Start Talk | Stop Talk: Handbooks to help faculty, faculty developers, and university leaders more effectively engage campus communities in conversations.

- Circle of 6 [SU uses LiveSafe}

- USC Race & Equity Institute Projects from 2018-2019 (Contact the OIDE for project history and information on how you may contribute.)

  - **Professional Development/Training,** Professional Development/Training: Race Equity Project - 1

  - **Resource Management,** Resource Management - Race Equity Project – 2

  - **Climate,** Climate Group - Race Equity Project - 3

  - **Pipelining,** Diversifying our College Community through Effective Pipelining - Race Equity Project - 4

- Title IX APP created by the Title IX Working Group

- Faculty Guidebook from the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity: From Search Committee membership to the ESF Web Accessibility Policy, this faculty guidebook outlines helpful information for faculty from the world of student and workforce diversity. Look for your hard copy soon from OIDE via campus mail.

Please reach out if you are in need of assistance or support and encourage others to do the same. Showing concern and caring for each other is needed as we work through this together.

Sincerely,

Dave Amberg
Interim President