

Saffell, Mary

From: Mrasek, Jean on behalf of Boschini, Chancellor Victor
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 3:52 PM
Subject: MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



October 18, 2016

Dear Campus Community,

Recently, three students shared with me their concerns about the culture of our community, specifically the culture surrounding the issue of race on campus. They presented to me a list of ideas to help address some of the issues they believe black students sometimes face as members of the TCU community. We had the opportunity to meet and talk about some of their ideas with other university leaders this past Friday.

I'd like to acknowledge these students for bringing their concerns forward. TCU has enjoyed a longstanding commitment to shared governance, and students have an important voice in discussions involving their quality of life on campus. At the core of our university is our mission to educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in a global community. If we are to live out this mission, then our University must create space for its members to express their apprehensions, along with their ideas for positive change. I appreciate the effort it must have taken for these students to act on their concerns.

In response, I want to share with you all where the discussion led on Friday and where we will go from here. Some of the ideas provided by the students are achievable in the short term, and the University has committed to taking the following actions:

1. I will establish a Cabinet-level position to lead our efforts regarding diversity and inclusion.
2. We will provide more training for all students, faculty and staff so that they may better partner with us to effect cultural change on our campus.
3. We will find additional ways to support students, faculty and staff of color through some of the conflict happening in our country.
4. We will continue to actively recruit a diverse student body and members of the faculty and staff who are strong role models and mentors.

Other recommendations will take the work of University committees and structures, as follows:

1. I will ask Provost Donovan to work with our faculty to examine their curricula for opportunities to engage students in the scholarship of diversity and inclusion.

2. I will ask the recently established Diversity Commission to establish a Bias Response Team that will determine a campus-wide response when acts of bias occur in our community.

Some ideas the students presented require additional consideration and we will continue to work with students, the Diversity Commission and University leadership to assess them.

Our University community is imperfect, but I have not experienced another that cares for its members like TCU. We have work to do, and I ask that we engage in this important work with respect for each other, openness to change and a desire for a more inclusive community.

Sincerely,
Victor J. Boschini, Jr.
Chancellor

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