

Over the past year, there have been multiple incidents of discrimination & hate on campus. Last year, a large number of hate comments were posted to the anonymous social media site, Yik Yak. Many students came out & met with university administrators who promised change & action on the part of the university. Over the last two months, there was an incident in Curry where hate speech related to African Americans was written on a bulletin board. Just last week, a sexual orientation-based hate term was yelled out of a window in Frazer at a group passing by. The university has responded to both of these acts by simply sending an e-mail to the residents of these buildings telling residents that the incidents occurred & would be investigated. These are only the incidents that have actually been reported. Our peers have many stories of unreported incidents that are equally as troubling. As you can imagine, these incidents and responses are concerning and also impact the wellness of our students & community as a whole.

As a body, BSA & SGA have come together to share the following concerns:

- Discriminatory acts & incidents appear to not be addressed throughout the entire campus.
- Information related to bias-related incidents is being miscommunicated when incidents occur.
- Students do not feel Longwood has a safe environment to report such incidents when they occur.
- There is a general campus climate that does not view bias-related incidents as “important.”
- There is also a general university culture that does not have diversity-related issues & education integrated.

We ask that the faculty stand in support of the student body & help bring about solutions to these issues. Solutions we suggest include:

- Integrating bias-related incident training & response into the required Faculty/Staff Title IX training.
- Faculty should be encouraged to include the university’s diversity statement in their syllabi related to university policies.
- Diversity education should be included in the LSEM curriculum.

- Support an overall improvement in integrating diversity education & advocacy into the culture of Longwood.
- Continue to support efforts to recruit & retain a more diverse faculty.
- Support an overall more inclusive campus environment.

Thank you for hearing our concerns. We hope to have your support in making Longwood a more diverse & supportive community.