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Dr. David Lehr Longwood University 201 High Street Farmville, VA 23909

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Faculty Senate,

We are writing you to express student concerns regarding a lack of diversity on Longwood's campus and frequent bias incidents within our community. These issues were most prevalent at the end of the last academic year when many Longwood students were victimized by comments on a popular social media app, Yik Yak. This issue is unfortunately still very present today on Longwood's campus. An incident recently occurred in the Curry Residence Hall and was written about by The Rotunda. The Student Government Association and other campus partners are hoping that you will assist in a collaborative effort to address these concerns.

We feel that in order to address bias incidents and a lack of diversity on campus, we must first educate our community and take active roles in bringing about a change. The Student Government Association will be expanding its Diversity & Social Justice Committee (DSJC) and we hope to involve students, faculty and everyone who would like to participate. The DSJC will also work with campus partners to encourage students to use the bias incident form to report bias in our community. Finally, the Student Government Association, the Black Student Association, Lancer Productions and other campus partners have expressed interest in providing various types of programming to help foster this new and enlightened campus community. We welcome faculty support and participation.

We are hopeful that one day all Lancers will find Longwood to be accepting of the various backgrounds, ethnicities, and races. We hope to have your support.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Gills President, SGA joseph.gills@live.longwood.edu Constance Garner President-elect, SGA constance.garner@live.longwood.edu