

FACULTY SENATE
The University of Oklahoma
Norman Campus

UPDATE FROM THE FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

January 29, 2019

To the OU Community:

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) is dismayed by the recent evidences of racist behavior by our students and on our campus. We recognize that, while these incidents are despicable on their own, the sober fact is that they are merely symptoms of more systematic issues of embedded racism in our broader society and in our campus institutions. The FSEC is dedicated to mobilizing the Faculty Senate to help move the university forward in its efforts to alleviate such racism on campus. In conjunction with the Faculty Senate's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (FDEIC), the FSEC plans to lead on these issues by putting measures before the full Faculty Senate as soon as possible that are intended to create the kind of structural change that will make our campus a more equitable and welcoming place for everyone. If you have ideas you would like to contribute, please email the Senate at facsen@ou.edu.

In the meantime, the FSEC has sent letters to both President Gallogly and the OU Regents. We agree with President Gallogly that we will all have to work together to create lasting cultural change. The letters communicate the FSEC's acceptance of joint responsibility on the part of the faculty for positive change as well as a commitment to acting on that responsibility. The FSEC has offered to facilitate communication between the administration and faculty who have done years of research and activism in pursuit of greater equity and diversity on campus. Some of these ideas were already endorsed by the Faculty Senate immediately after the SAE incident several years ago. The letter strongly urges the President to move quickly and boldly to put the best of these ideas into practice immediately. Our letter to the Regents encourages them to empower the president to do just that. We look forward to working with the administration to use this moment to make real and lasting changes on our campus toward greater equity for everyone in our OU community.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Norman Campus

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