



72nd Student Senate
Racial Inclusivity and Justice Ad Hoc
Date: 10/30/20 via Zoom

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Murcia, Vice Chair Gonzalez, Senator(s) Branch, Hunter, Wang, Ad Hoc Member(s) Feacher, Williams

Members Absent: None

Guests: None

Announcements:

- Chair - None
- Vice Chair - None
- Members - None

Committee Business:

- Letter to Dr.Hecht



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Dr. Hecht or Whoever is to Act Within her Capacity,

The Division of Student Affairs released a statement affirming their understanding of the anger, grief, and exhaustion Black individuals face as a result of systems of oppression deeply ingrained in our society. You have explicitly stated your division's "deep commitment to creating a more inclusive campus" and you have acknowledged your "unearned privilege as a white woman" and the fact that you "still have work to do to learn, unlearn, and best support our students of color and the LGBTQ+ community." We urge that you bring those promises, that self-realization and the lived reality of oppression on marginalized communities to the forefront of your being.

The Racial Inclusivity and Justice Ad Hoc Committee of the Student Senate is deeply disgusted with the Supreme Court's decision to reinstate Jack Denton as Student Senate President. Systemic racism and discrimination have created an environment of complacency on the Florida State University campus that allows a culture of privilege to prevail above all else. It is this same culture that allows white, cisgender students, faculty, and staff to be given the choice of standing for equity and equality for all, or sitting in comfort, while Black and LGBTQ+ communities are harmed. Reflective of this country and the birdcage of limitation that exists for people of color, our University's criminology and law buildings are named after white supremacists and an effigy honoring one of them was relocated and protected for months. On a broader scale, according to the University of North Carolina's School of Medicine, the average life expectancy for a transgender woman of color is 35. Systems of oppression are not simply upheld through large-scale actions but through minuscule actions that are all inherently linked to upholding a larger, wider, reality. The decision of the Supreme Court is not light nor is it unimportant, but it upholds this legacy of oppression and disregard for marginalized communities on Florida State's campus.

The Student Senate is being held for ransom. Senators have been cornered into a position of representing their constituents or complying with an individual not representative of Florida State University's values and morals. Senators have come forth with stories of the disrespect and backlash they have faced as a consequence of being a part of a system that continuously serves to oppress marginalized communities. Senators have lost all hope in the powers of local advocacy and student government as a direct result of their experiences with this situation. Senators have been jurors for months, and it is now your turn to play the role of judge.

As the Vice President of Student Affairs, you are tasked with the obligation of being a channel for the voiceless and a platform for opportunity and change. Within you lies a wide amount of power and a unique possibility of acknowledging your power and privilege and its effects on systems of oppression. As a committee, we implore you to overturn the decision of the Florida State University Supreme Court in reinstating Jack Denton. We ask you to set the course of history on the right path, for true inclusivity. Your decision will be your legacy. All eyes are on you.

Respectfully,

The Racial Inclusivity and Justice Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Murcia, Vice Chair Gonzalez, Senator(s) Branch, Hunter, Wang, Ad Hoc Member(s) Feacher, Williams

Final Announcements: None

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 11/06/20 at 6pm

Adjourned: 7:01 p.m.