

To the world with their eyes towards Evergreen,

We will open this message by stating that we are not attempting to discard or discredit legitimate concerns of racism throughout society, however attention to rectifying these issues has been detracted from due to the events at Evergreen during the last two weeks. These events have not only damaged the credibility of those who want to address racial issues, but have also put a greater portion of the student body, staff and faculty at risk of bodily injury. Addressing the real issues has been made much more difficult due to a tendency for those disagreeing with the protesters or their methods to be labeled as being racist, which stifles expression and dissent while diluting and perverting the meaning of the term. Through abundant use or threat of the racism label, and an unwillingness of various individuals to contest such claims, the protesting group has held a stranglehold on the administration, which the protesters have used in an attempt to avoid responsibility and enact their agenda.

Those of us writing and in support of this letter have been appalled by the events which have transpired over the last two weeks starting May 14th, 2017 . These things include:

- The fashion in which these protests have been conducted and that groups of the protesters have gone beyond protesting to criminal action including verbally and physically harass and even physically assault other members of the student body.
- The extent to which the Administration has, through inaction, allowed student protestors to control campus, which has led to the campus being unsafe for all Students, Faculty and the Administration.
- The enablement of individuals to deflect criticism and avoid responsibility for their actions, perhaps out of fear of cries of discrimination based on race/sexuality/gender identity/disability status.
- The inability of the Administration, led by President George Bridges, to maintain a reasonable working relationship with student protest groups, faculty and the rest of the student body.
 - The demands of the protesters have been met with little to no resistance except when George Bridges does not have unilateral power yet,
 - The demands of the protesting group and the actions they have made do not represent the entire student body or even a majority of the student body.
- The decision of George Bridges to tie the hands of the Campus police when it comes to matters of anyone involved with the protests which allows fringe activists to commit crimes that go unpunished and denying students the access to protection from law enforcement officers.
 - The decision of the Administration to stand down the police diminished protection offered by the L.E. officers to the campus community.
 - The failure to fully empower and support Law Enforcement on campus has endangered both the officers and the campus community as a whole.

- The inability of the Administration to safely evacuate the campus after the threat on Thursday 6/1/2017 where no obvious evacuation plan was in place.
 - Teachers independently took charge of classes
 - The parking lot was gridlocked which would have proved disastrous in the case of an actual emergency.

- The vulnerability to and rampant exploitation of guilt-based manipulation based upon aspects of identity beyond our control has allowed total control over the Administration and a large portion of Faculty which has allowed for these protesters to excuse their actions and avoid the consequences that the school should be implementing.
 - This is exemplified in the first line of the Faculty statement of solidarity with students, “We acknowledge that all of us who have power within the institution share responsibility for the racist actions of others. Furthermore, those of us who are white bear a particularly large share of that responsibility.” blaming the situation that some find themselves in on those of a certain race that has no effect on their ability to create or change those issues.
 - We reject the McCarthy-esque witch-hunting which has taken place. Simply crying racist has become sufficient to destroy credibility and empower accusers. This has been accompanied by vigilante action against those dubiously accused racism, and this behavior has not been reigned in by the administration.

- The fact that the ability of the protester and subsets within to silence any communication of different ideas with them in a decent matter and to slander whoever opposes them by calling them “racists”, “Nazis” or part of the “alt-right” and later excusing the actions they take against those individuals because of those titles. (This includes pictures shared on social media to intimidate and threaten violence upon others.)

Understandably, the outside world has responded negatively to the college’s refusal to take control over the situation on campus, and now is questioning the value of the education available at Evergreen. The actions of a few has unduly devalued the degrees and hard work of students in the eyes of the general public. We cannot tolerate this compromising of all of our hard work by radical elements

A small, vocal, and even violent group of students has been allowed to speak for all Evergreen students in a way that does not align with Evergreen’s core values and founding principles. This behavior may be condoned by Bridges and some faculty, but is not representative of the majority of faculty and members of the student body. Throughout this conflict, our main desire remains the perpetuation of the fantastic

educational environment that Evergreen can provide. But now, due to a small group of individuals allowed to run amok, who do not represent core Evergreen values of inclusivity, equity and equality, the only thing recognizable to the outside world is division, disrespect, and a culture which fosters behavior unbecoming of anyone.

We hope that our concerns are met with tolerance and open-mindedness, for without us being able to have open discussions we will invariably fail our core purpose as members of the Evergreen community. This cannot be allowed to happen, and we must return to the guiding principles of our college. We have been failed by our president, and we have been failed by elements of faculty and the student body. We must have no further failure, and instead must return to progress and a free, unhindered exchange of ideas. fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment for all peoples and being able to listen to one another, especially with difficult issues to face.

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With the support of other concerned students