



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 22, 2017

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Dr. Farshad Aminian-Tankei
Dr. Kristine De Welde
Dr. Nicola Foote
Dr. Sharon Isern
Dr. Arsalan Mirjafari
Dr. Scott Michael
Dr. Jaffar Ali Shahul-Hameed
Dr. Sachiko Tankei-Aminian

Dear Faculty,

Good afternoon. I'm writing in response to your letter of March 17 expressing concern about bias-based incidents on our campus. Please know that given a lifetime of both personal and relevant experiences, I share and deeply understand your concerns, not only for such incidents at FGCU but also on the campuses at universities and colleges across the country.

Today I will issue another "*From the President's Desk*" message to the campus that strongly denounces expressions of hatred which result in members of our community feeling less welcome, less valued, and less safe. While since October I have written to our students, faculty and staff with five such messages of strong repudiation of bias and hatred, I will not make it a practice to publicly respond to each incident of a flyer or graffiti on campus.

As I know you recognize, this is not a simple issue with a singular answer. I believe at the core of the issue is seeking ways to change hearts and minds where hatred and bias exist, and this cannot be accomplished by a single person. Just as in the greater communities across our state and nation, it will take members of the FGCU family committed to respectful dialogue and actions that lead by example and instruction. As faculty, you have an important role in this process, and I encourage you to find ways, as your letter says, to do the hard work associated with creating a diverse and inclusive campus. You will have no stronger partner in these efforts than me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wilson G. Bradshaw'.

Wilson G. Bradshaw, Ph.D.
President

c: President's Cabinet

