

Proposal: 11R5

Title: Minority Student Care During 2020 Election Season

Date: Wednesday, 7 October, 2020

Sponsor(s): Alyssa Miller, EVP of Community Diversity; Amelia Miller, EVP of Student Wellness; Estefanía Hernández, Student Body President

Text: Be it resolved that the 2020-2021 Student Government Board of Wheaton College launches an initiative to promote the wellness of minority students during the 2020 U.S. general elections. The Student Election Care Team of the Election Taskforce will commit to the following steps:

1. Promote awareness and understanding of Title IX procedures.
2. Recruit student leaders with an aptitude for cultural sensitivity who are willing to care for minority students given the stressors of the U.S. general elections.
3. Coordinate with the aforementioned student leaders to provide safe spaces in compliance with COVID Safe, Thunder Strong guidelines.

Rationale: Our student body is currently dealing with heightened mental strain and trauma from the COVID pandemic as well as the racial upheaval of the summer. This initiative brought by the Student Election Care Team seeks to address the racial disparity in the mental health problems of our student body. The Student Election Care Team is composed of Estefania Hernandez, Alyssa Miller, Amelia Miller, Brianna Barba, Melissa Montiel, and Daniel Ju.

Several students have brought to our attention that most students are unaware of the availability of the Title IX office and its accompanying resources and procedures. The familiarity of Title IX procedures, including the new Bias Incident Report Form, will allow students who are subject to discriminatory actions to seek recourse and receive support.

There is a dearth of spaces available for minority students to process and lament the racial and systemic injustices they have endured and will continue to endure during this contentious election season. Our goal is to promote a deeper sense of embodied community while staying safe with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will largely recruit racial minority junior and senior students as leaders, and the Student Election Care Team will collaborate with them to create effective support structures and facilitate safe spaces for minority students during and after the presidential elections. As part of the Inclusion pillar of the Diversity Commitment Statement, this initiative will “practice hospitality and create a sense of belonging for all members to ensure that no one is treated as an outsider or suffers exclusion” [Leviticus 19:33-34; Acts 2:42-47].

Respectfully Submitted,

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