

To: Dr. Leanne Van Dyk & Teaching Faculty

From: Garam Han

February 3, 2019, 8:54 pm

Dear. Dr. Leanne Van Dyk,

We, the international students, appreciate you and the President's Council for your efforts to fulfill the mission and vision of our seminary. We acknowledge with shock and despair regarding your communication dated January 31, 2019 and to Rev. Brandon T. Maxwell's email dated February 3, 2019 which was a clear effort to shut down this letter. After reading your communications, we recognize that we have been completely ignored, disregarded, and disrespected in the decision-making process. Against this backdrop, we would like to state the following concerns that reflect our convictions and realities.

We are concerned that the impending dismissal of Dr. Kevin Park will have catastrophic effects on the holistic well-being of international students. The presence of Dr. Park and the resources that he brings to the entire community, especially to the international students, are invaluable. Losing him also means losing the Korean American Ministries and all of our connections to the Asian and Asian-American church community and institutions, domestic and abroad. Dr. Park offers a better student experience in terms of community and hospitality for Asian, Korean, and international students. He goes above and beyond his role to provide personal care and support.

We are concerned that with the dissolution of the International Programs Office and the loss of Dr. John Azumah's position as Director of International Programs, the interests and particular needs of international students will not be adequately addressed. We recognize that the changes to the Center for Academic Literacy will also have a long lasting impact on the international student community, however we are not addressing this issue in this letter. The International Programs Office has over the years successfully learned and mastered the intricate skills and processes that are required for the success of international students on this campus. The emotional, spiritual, and community services offered by the International Programs Office cannot be casually replaced at any cost. Regarding the loss of the Director of International Programs position, it means we are losing our dedicated connection to Africa and other global contexts. It is to be noted that a person with such caliber and experience surely adds a cosmopolitan character to our institution.

It is interesting that the **strategic realignments** that the seminary is undertaking are negatively affecting the international students in comparison with the rest of the community. We just finished Explorations where we sent domestic students into the world. We celebrated their learning in Jamaica and South Korea. We celebrated their journeys and their learning experiences and benefited from the generous hospitality of our hosts in these countries. How can we claim to be a progressive seminary that is committed to the global Church, benefit from the hospitality of our partners in other countries and eliminate the International Programs that is

tasked with attending to the intricate needs of students from all over the world? We are about to open the Migration and Border Crossings Conference where we invite an array of diverse speakers to teach us about the causes, processes and effects of global migration. We teach the Columbia community insights and tools for addressing immigration related issues and declare our commitment to justice for immigrants. However, are we reflecting these teachings towards our own community in concrete terms? For a time such as this, as a Seminary, we ought to strive towards being a community that will continue to shape imaginative, resilient leaders for God's changing world and partake in the mission of the Church in the global work of creation, reconciliation, compassion, and justice.

We recommend the following:

- The International Programs Office be retained.
- The Director of International Programs position be maintained and filled by a person who is globally trained and empathetic to the interests of international students.
- The decision not to renew Dr. Kevin Park's terms of services be reconsidered. We cannot afford to lose two international faculty in one year.

We invite you into dialogue with us so that we can truly become the inclusive, diverse and global community that we aspire and claim to be. We look forward to your response President Leanne Van Dyk by Noon, Tuesday, February 5, 2019. Thank you for your time.

Signed,

Abreu Rosario, Christópher

Ahn, Jihyun

Alonge, Ebenezer

Andrews, Shelby Lynn

Apelquist, Bethany Love

Asumadu, Frank

Avula, Suhasini

Bland, Marben D

Breyer, Rachel Grace

Brock, Joffre Tyler

Bui, Kevin Van

Carson, Nicholas Joseph

Claunch, Anna Grace

Dates, Carl James (CJ)

Essah, Paul

Fluckus, Erica

Gallagher, Joseph Howard

Garcia, Kevin Michael

Godbey, Sarah Ruth

Hampton, Thomas Richard

Han, Garam
Han, Sang Hoon
Henry, Gerlyn
Herring, Nell
Injamuri, Hannah Grace Sucharitha
Jeyaraj, Trevor
Johnson, Richard
Jones, Lucas
Jung, Beom S
Jung, Minah
Kim, Dana
Kim, Jinhyuk
Kim, Myungjin
Kim, Sam
Kim, Seyeom
Gable, William Michael
Lane, Patrick Fisher
Leland, Becca
Maconochie, Paige Louise
Mauney, Alexandra DuBose
Miller, Thomas
Morrell, Emily
Morrell, Sarah Jane
Moss, Dahl Antonio
Nile, Laura Marie
Oppong Peprah, Emmanuel
Park, Ki hyun
Post, Abigail Marie
Richardson, Ann Louise Margaret
Riley, Dana
Rugh, Erin
Seo, Bowook
Smith, Eliza Joyce
Smith, Joshua
Snyder, Jennifer Ann
Sommerfeld, Kristen
Song, Youngshin
Thompson, Dallas Anne
Thompson, Keith Brandon
Tomasz, Jordan
Traxler, Jalani
Turpen, Samuel Joseph
Van Lian, Thang

Vaughn, Madison N
Wildhack, Jocelyn Maria
Wolf, Natalie
Wright, Grant Lawton
Yajenlemla
Young, Loudon Alexander