

February 2, 2012

Dear students:

MUSG's new diversity initiative includes a series of roundtable discussions that aim to increase the representation of all students and student organizations. The next roundtable discussions will take place on **February 16 & 27** and **March 8 & 27** at 12:30 p.m. in the Multicultural Center, and will be hosted by MUSG Senators Sterling Hardaway and Jilly Gokalgandhi.

We found our first series of roundtables in October and December to provide us with a fruitful discussion on how MUSG and the university could better meet the needs of underrepresented student populations. Below you will find a list of topics discussed at the first two meetings:

- The university needs to make greater strides to promote inclusion and acclimate students to diversity on campus.
- The university should make more efforts to maintain diversity on campus. Annually the admission and retention rates can be affected by changes in scholarships, grants and financial aid, which affects the overall presence of traditionally underrepresented students.
- Within the academic realm, diversity can be improved through a focus on the diversity component of the Core of Common Studies, with additional diversity courses, and increasing the number of faculty from diverse backgrounds.
- Lines of support and advocates for underrepresented students need to be clearly defined because many times students solely rely on word-of-mouth to learn of what resources are available to talk to about issue. Further, students are unaware of the Diversity Advocates and the role they play on-campus.
- The university tends to overplay its levels of diversity on campus through marketing materials and on recruiting trips, and prospective students cannot find population statistics on the website.
- University departments, along with student organizations, need to do a better job of promoting inclusivity and advertising leadership positions to all students on campus.
- MUSG should take more effort to build strong bonds of trust with student groups by making themselves better known; one example is by attending their group meetings and stopping in the Multicultural Center.
- Leaders on campus, such as MUSG, need to set examples for other students. Their actions and discussions can help bring about a change and set a new tone on-campus.
- There needs to be a re-evaluation of space on-campus for use by underrepresented student populations. This issue is most prevalent to non-Catholic religious groups that lack the appropriate space to conduct their religious services.

Lastly, for those that have attended our roundtable discussions we thank you for taking the time to help us learn more. Any feedback you are able to provide on how MUSG can improve the representation of all students' needs is greatly appreciated. We aim to form a long-term relationship that would enable us to work together to confront issues, share information and attend events. We look forward to seeing all of you at our next roundtable. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to let us know. Please forward this message along to students that would be interested in attending these roundtables.

Best regards,

MUSG Executive Board