From: CoREM <corem@msu.edu>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 10:42 AM

**To:** Samue l L. S tanley Jr., M.D., President <PresidentStanley@m su.edu>; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

<presmail@msu.edu>

Cc: Board Of Trustees <trustees@msu.edu>; editorinchief@statenews.com <editorinchief@statenews.com>; opinions@ls.jcom <opinions@lsj.com>

**Subject:** CoREM response to MSU selection of the Provost

President Stanley:

It is with great disappointJ.nent that the executive board for the Coalition of Racial and Ethnic Mino1ities (CoREM) wiite to you regarding tl1e announce1nent of your selection for MSU's future Provost.

The decision of selecting our next Provost vvas a crucial one, one that would send a message to the entire MSU co1111nunity about the direction of MSU under your leadership. It is a decision that vvou1d confinn the credibility of your co1nmitJ.nent to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and marginalized groups and populations across ca1npus. CoREM had hoped you would 1nake your selection for Provost bea1ing in 1nind the past and CUITent cli1nate and culture of MSU. Unfortunately, instead of sending a 1nessage that you understand the CUITent climate and culture ofMSU and that you understand tl1e healing that needs to happen for tJ.ust to be restored across ca1npus, your selection sends a 1nessage that the conce111S our com1nunities have brought to your attention since yoUI· ar1ival to ca1npus have largely been ignored.

CoREM was initially ve1y pleased with the diverse selection of finalists for Provost/Executive Vice President of Acade1nic Affairs that the Provost Search Committee put forth. Both Dr. Blanchette and Dr. Tillis

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**2/3**

**4/30/2020**

**Gmail** - **FW: CoREM response to MSU selection of the Provost**

possessed the expertise and leadership necessary to help heal MSU, e1nbrace DEI, and position MSU as a leader in education and research around the world. They both had long histories of building meaningful relationships with stakeholders which would help MSU rebuild and regain the tJ.ust that were lost under the previous adminisu-ation. Although we agree Dr. Woodiuff's scholarly credentials are i1npeccable, her expertise and expe1ience are largely within her field of study. Her knovvledge and understanding of adininisu-ation and DEI initiatives appears largely superficial. But 1nore alar1ning is the fact that there was a call by1narginalized students at Northwestern for her re1noval as a result of her handling of DEI issues within the graduate school. In short, the selection of Dr. Woodiuff fro111 this group of talented candidates does not send a positive message to our communities. Instead, it raises serious questions and conce1ns about yotu· creditability and commitinent to DEI.

We were hoping for the selection of a Provost that would have perspective and insight regarding DEI and expe1ience with healing and building trust across campus. Instead, we have been given a candidate who clearly has snuggled witl1DEI initiatives at her CUITent institution and whose ONLY work in DEI is with Caucasian females. MSU needs and dese1ves 1nore than that and had an opportunity to have more. Please know that CoREM remains co1111nitted to the healing and rebuilding of MSU, oUI· cainpus' cultUI·e and cli1nate, and to embrace, honor, respect and celebrate DEI initiatives.

Sincerely,

**CoREM**

Coalition of Racial and Ethnic Mino1ities

Asian Pacific Islander Desi Alnerican/Asian Faculty, Staff, & Adminisu-ators (APIDA/AFSA) Black Faculty, Staff & AdministJ.·ators Association (BFSAA)

Chicano Latino Faculty, Staff, Specialists and Graduate Student Association (ChiLA)

Educating Anishinaabe: Giving, Lea1ning, E1npowe1ing (EAGLE)