

From: CoREM <corem@msu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President <PresidentStanley@msu.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@lsj.com <opinions@lsj.com>
Subject: CoREM response to MSU selection of the Provost

President Stanley:

It is with great disappointment that the executive board for the Coalition of Racial and Ethnic Minorities (CoREM) write to you regarding the announcement of your selection for MSU's future Provost.

The decision of selecting our next Provost was a crucial one, one that would send a message to the entire MSU community about the direction of MSU under your leadership. It is a decision that would confirm the credibility of your commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and marginalized groups and populations across campus. CoREM had hoped you would make your selection for Provost bearing in mind the past and current climate and culture of MSU. Unfortunately, instead of sending a message that you understand the current climate and culture of MSU and that you understand the healing that needs to happen for trust to be restored across campus, your selection sends a message that the concerns our communities have brought to your attention since your arrival to campus have largely been ignored.

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

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4/30/2020

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

possessed the expertise and leadership necessary to help heal MSU, embrace 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 trust that were lost under the previous administration. Although we agree Dr. Woodruff's scholarly credentials are impeccable, her expertise and experience are largely within her field of study. Her knowledge and understanding of administration and DEI initiatives appears largely superficial. But more alarming is the fact that there was a call by marginalized students at Northwestern for her removal as a result of her handling of DEI issues within the graduate school. In short, the selection of Dr. Woodruff from this group of talented candidates does not send a positive message to our communities. Instead, it raises serious questions and concerns about your credibility and commitment to DEI.

We were hoping for the selection of a Provost that would have perspective and insight regarding DEI and experience with healing and building trust across campus. Instead, we have been given a candidate who clearly has struggled with DEI initiatives at her current institution and whose ONLY work in DEI is with Caucasian females. MSU needs and deserves more than that and had an opportunity to have more. Please know that CoREM remains committed to the healing and rebuilding of MSU, our campus' culture and climate, and to embrace, honor, respect and celebrate DEI initiatives.

Sincerely,

CoREM

Coalition of Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American/Asian Faculty, Staff, & Administrators (APIDA/AFSA)

Black Faculty, Staff & Administrators Association (BFSAA)

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

Educating Anishinaabe: Giving, Learning, Empowering (EAGLE)