



To the University Community:

After months of divisive political campaigning, the election has to an end. The results of this election will go beyond politics and any individual candidate. Many members of our community are hurting. Immigrants, LGBT people, those with disabilities, women: anyone who has felt disparaged by the language of this election may now be dealing with what is to come. In the morning, the sun will rise and our country will have new politicians-elect, but for many, uncertainty of our futures will remain. Many of you have vocalized your confusion, fear, and a multitude of other emotions about the culture we live in, a culture that can be so cold and intolerant of our diversity. These feelings have been met with support, statements of solidarity, and acts of resilience from a community that is stronger than any force that threatens to divide it.

We each have many choices: to gloat in victory, to mourn defeat, to lose hope in our political systems, to rededicate ourselves to democracy. But we have little choice in that we must move forward. We must support each other. We must recognize that our peers of different identities and backgrounds are responding to recent events in ways that some of us cannot understand firsthand. We must come together to defend those who have been marginalized and to continue the fight against discrimination. In the same way, do not stoop to the incivility and disrespect that has plagued this election; to alienate anyone on the basis of their identity or political affiliation will not be tolerated. Any retribution against the outcome of an election must be accomplished through the political process. We must heal together.

To those struggling, please reach out for support. It is okay to feel sad, angry, frustrated, scared. We have encouraged faculty to lower their academic expectations tomorrow and host classroom dialogues. It is our hope that this request will be honored by the leaders of our University, but please do reach out to your faculty members individually. They are here for you, they are with you, they support you, and they consider your safety a paramount priority.

We stand with everyone who has been affected by the increase in bias-related incidents that have challenged our community in new ways this semester. Now more than ever, we recognize the crucial role that the Eliminate the Hate campaign is playing and the importance of events like the student-led town hall on diversity that will take place on December 2nd. As we continue to craft the vision for our University together, please be vigilant for acts of intolerance and stand up to any injustice that you encounter.

In support,
Student Council