



## Presidential Order 2 of April 18, 2017

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### **Directing the Creation of a First Year Lecture on the History of the University of Virginia's Relationship with Charlottesville**

By the authority vested in me as President of Student Council by the Student Council Constitution and Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, to better inform the first year students at the University of Virginia of the historical and societal relationship between the University and Charlottesville community, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: *Delegation*. There is delegated to the Academic Affairs, Community Engagement, and Diversity Engagement Committees of Student Council the creation of a lecture on the University of Virginia's social and historical identity in Charlottesville (hereby referred to as the lecture) to be delivered to first year students.

Section 2: *Direction*. The Academic Affairs, Community Engagement, and Diversity Engagement Committees of Student Council shall prepare a product to present to University administrators advocating for the need for the lecture, and addressing the content included in, and the logistics behind, a lecture to be delivered to all first year students.

Section 3: *History*. The need for a lecture on the social and historical position of the University of Virginia in the Charlottesville community has been identified by many individuals and student groups, and was discussed at the December 2016 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Town Hall. Many professors at the University of Virginia are passionate about informing the student body of the history of the University's relationship with Charlottesville and several courses already touch on topics of this nature, such as Professor Jalane Schmidt's "Whiteness: a Racial Category" course.

Section 4: *Mission and Focus*. (a) The mission of the lecture shall be to 1) provide first year students with an accurate and comprehensive depiction of the social and historical impact that the University of Virginia has had on the Charlottesville community 2) allow students to dialogue with peers about their role as public citizens of the Charlottesville community and 3) engage both implicit and explicit attitudes and stereotypes that fuel harmful town and gown dynamics. Specifically, the lecture shall focus on:

- (i) The History of Slavery at the University of Virginia;
- (ii) Relationship between the community of trust and diversity at the University of Virginia;
- (iii) Modern Day: Demographics of UVa and Charlottesville communities, as well as more recent incidents and debates, such as Vinegar Hill and Lee Park; and,
- (iv) Racial, ethnic, religious, LGBTQ, gender, socioeconomic, and ability sensitivities.

Section 5: *Administration*. (a) The lecture shall be delivered specifically to first year students. Several opportunities for professors to deliver the lecture are available, including Fall Orientation as well as introductory first year courses such as College Advising and English

Writing Seminars.

(b) The Academic Affairs, Community Engagement, and Diversity Engagement Committees of Student Council shall be informed by CIOs on Grounds as well as students and University administrators and faculty in their development of the lecture.

(c) The lecture shall engage the University faculty to facilitate discussion among students. Specifically, Student Council shall work with the Center for Teaching Excellence to facilitate dialogue between students and professors.

(d) The lecture shall be 60-90 minutes in length. While the majority of the lecture will be focused on the the historical and societal relationship between the University and Charlottesville community, professors delivering the lecture shall have the flexibility to designate at least 30 percent of the lecture to discussion of intersectionality and a variety of current issues such as gender at the University, religion at the University, the debate over Lee Park, or an analysis of the Westhaven public housing development.

Section 6: *General Provisions.* (a) In exercising authority delegated by or performing actions assigned in this order, the Academic Affairs, Community Engagement, and Diversity Engagement Committees of Student Council and their members:

- (i) Shall ensure that all actions taken by them are consistent with the constitutional authority of the President of Student Council; and,
- (ii) May redelegate authority delegated by this order and may further assign functions assigned by this order to other committees within the President's Cabinet with approval from the Chief of Cabinet.

(b) The development of the lecture shall be funded through Student Council Executive Board Discretionary budget.

(c) The Academic Affairs, Community Engagement, and Diversity Engagement Committees of Student Council shall be responsible for meeting the following goals by each of the dates listed below:

- (i) *May 5th, 2017:* Develop a working group of committee members, UVa faculty, and students to begin the process of forming the lecture;
- (ii) *September 1st, 2017:* Create focus groups and questions to ask University students, faculty, and administrators about the proposed lecture and what content they would like to see included. Reach out to the Office of Orientation and New Student Programs, Housing and Residence Life, and the College of Arts and Sciences to discuss options for presenting the lecture to first year students. Identify champions of diversity (students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni); individuals who have made significant contributions to the improvement to the lives of diverse populations at the University of Virginia;
- (iii) *December 1st, 2017:* Formulate content, structure, and logistics of the lecture. Develop plan of implementing the lecture in Fall of 2018. Present plan to the Office of Orientation and New Student Programs, Housing and Residence Life, and/or the College



of Arts and Sciences in order to ensure readiness for Fall 2018; and,  
(iv) *February 1st, 2018*: Finalize Presentation for the Board of Visitors' Diversity and Inclusion Committee meeting with the President and top University Administrators.

- (d) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:
- (i) the authority granted by the Student Council Constitution and bylaws to another Student Council Committee, or the chair(s) thereof; or
  - (ii) the functions of the Academic Affairs, Community Engagement, and Diversity Engagement Committees of Student Council.

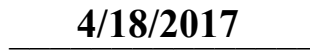
(e) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable Student Council bylaws and subject to the availability of appropriations.

President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah E. Kenny". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Sarah E. Kenny

Date

The date "4/18/2017" is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. It is positioned above a horizontal line.

April 18, 2017