THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

FACULTY GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Members of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) had an immediate, strong and adverse reaction to the news that bulletin boards and office doors in Haven Hall were vandalized due to what might prove to be discriminatory motives and the targeting of specific groups within the University community. Detailed information on the nature, extent and possible perpetrators of the vandalism is not available at this time but at least two active investigations, one by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and one by Institutional Equity are underway. When the investigations are completed a more informed judgment could be made about a response. The Provost responded immediately to the first notification, saying

"The strength of our community springs from our tolerance, acceptance and mutual respect for one another. Our academic excellence is rooted in our diversity....

This act of destruction and intolerance is not Michigan. Michigan is the sharing of diverse viewpoints and ideas in a safe environment grounded in mutual respect....

The intellectual activity occurring every day in Haven Hall and throughout our campus is cause for celebration and admiration, not defacement, intimidation or harassment...."

and SACUA concurs with his statement.

However, as Haven Hall houses the meeting rooms and offices of groups who have been the targets of discrimination and hateful speech in the past SACUA believes that it is important to inform the Regents that first understanding and then responding to this incident and the university's response to it has become a high priority for SACUA. If the Haven Hall incident proves to be targeted vandalism SACUA agrees with Provost Hanlon's statement to the University that this is not the Michigan way and would add that it seriously contradicts the core values of the University.

Submitted: November 2012

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