Islamophobia Working Group-- Student Meeting
Friday, September 30, 2016, 4-5:30pm, 3512 Haven Hall

MISSION

Given the recent increase in anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiment internationally, the purpose of this group of faculty, staff, and students is to strategize on how to create a safe and inclusive campus environment for Arab, Muslim, and MENA students and those who are impacted by anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiments (i.e. Sikh, etc.).

AGENDA

1. *Introductions*

2. *Five Areas: What is the current status? What are next steps?*

1. Improve the Bias Reporting System

(The Bias Response Team plans to revise their system this summer.)

(is this the system to use if students experience bias in the classroom eg, when professors make biased statements in the classroom? (there is an example of a student in a medical terminology class in which the instructor makes statements in relation to the Middle East/Arabs/Muslims that have nothing to do with the course material. The student reported feeling uncomfortable and did not know if it could be reported somehow)

2. Hate Mail Policy

(Mekarem signed up to do this and created this document)

- What are the implications of the hate mail policy?
- Finding the definition of hate mail

3. Increase Funding for Student Programming

(Maryam Ahmed, Areeba Jibril, Tizarat Gil – in conjunction with Evelyn Alsultany and Dahlia Petrus)

- What type of events should be funded?
    - Only towards events about Islamophobia?
    - Or events for all Arab, MENA, South Asian Orgs
    - OR just the Muslim Coalition and MSA
    - OR should it be under our discretion for AMAS to decide where funding goes through an event case by case basis?

4. Provide more prayer spaces

(Muslim Coalition, Alaa Hajeissa, Adam Mageed, Asma Baban)

- Chemistry Building Prayer Space
    - Next step is finalizing this space for students
- Haven Hall Prayer Space
    - Finalized and in use.

- Creating a Prayer Space on North Campus
    - Working with housing to create a prayer space in Bursley next to the dining hall.
    - OR Computer Science building
- Suggestion to create a committee for a prayer space in the new Trotter
- Suggestion to create a quarter sheet list of all of the prayer spaces on campus for administrative offices such as ISS, front desks, univeristy convenience stores in the union or league
    - With a campus map for directions
    - Provide this information to incoming freshmen Muslim students

5. Add a distinct designation for Arab, Muslim, and MENA students and faculty on the undergraduate application and on pool reports when faculty and staff are hired.
(Jad Elharake will contact Kedra and Erica; Devin Jones, Ibtihal Makki – contact Will Sherry)
- What is MENA?
    - Which countries?
    - Including ethnicities or no
- Suggestion was made to go straight to administrators as MENA students and saying we feel invisible and want to be identified
- Create a survey for MENA students on campus to see if they would want to be identified as MENA

3. Are there other priority areas to discuss with the larger group at the next meeting?
- LSA Teaching Academy
    - Nadine Jawad spoke
- Faculty Workshops
    - GSP is holding one
- Central Office on CRLT
    - Talking to someone about containing info about Islamophobia
- Talking to individual colleges to engage students about fixing Islamophobia
    - Engineering and Business School especially