

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Dear CU Student Government Leadership and Representatives:

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs for the past month, and during this time I have met with directors of Cost Centers and student leaders in a variety of settings with the goal of learning more about each area.

As part of my goal to quickly learn about all these areas, I have been excited to include a series of student listening sessions in collaboration with CUSG and CU Boulder administration. It is important for me to understand what is working well and where we can improve.

I am grateful for the strong partnership of the CUSG co-presidents, Ryan and Michael. Through our collaboration, we are aligned in our efforts to assist all CU Boulder students in achieving their goals. With any partnership, communication and trust are critical as well. As the leaders of Student Affairs and Student Government, we have the responsibility to ensure every student has the same opportunities to succeed. During initial conversations, we have learned a great deal about amazing initiatives happening at all levels, but are also noticing concerning themes.

A theme that has emerged in the past month is that a culture of exclusion may exist within CUSG and that not all students feel represented within the organization. Specifically we are concerned that hiring, appointment, and termination processes are not equitable and that bias exists within the organization – whether unconscious or not. It is pivotal that CUSG maintains consistent, equitable, and inclusive practices that allow student representatives to hold each other accountable to the same standards.

We urge you to immediately reflect on your discussions, your processes, your policies/bylaws and how you treat one another. Our sense is that representatives of student government are unconsciously inconsistent in holding one another accountable. This is a concern for us, and we invite you to participate in conversations about how we can improve and address this collectively. We have learned that students are being impacted negatively, whether directly or indirectly, by rash decisions and without using standard processes. It seems the issues in holding students accountable is disproportionately impacting underrepresented populations.

This letter is a call to action. We are willing and able to work together to change the culture of CUSG, whether perceived or real, but we need your collaboration, partnership, and openness to discuss these issues and actively take action to create an environment that is equitable, inclusive, and representative of our student population. We look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to reach out directly to studentaffairs@colorado.edu to set up a discussion and we will be in touch.

In partnership,



Akirah Bradley, EdD
Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



Ryan Passas
Co-Executive, CUSG



Michael Martin
Co-Executive, CUSG