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Letter - What it means to be a Pacifican

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What it means to be a Pacifican

November 11, 2016

To the University Community:

The presidential election has left many of us uncertain about the focus and tenor of national politics going forward and if the unusually hostile rhetoric of the election season will impact how safe people feel on our campuses and throughout our communities.

We stand firmly and assuredly that University of the Pacific remains deeply committed to the dignity, respect and safety of all our people - our students, our faculty, our staff and all who come to our campuses. We will continue to draw upon our strong campus and community partnerships to promote a safe and inclusive environment. We will also continue to foster civil discourse through which we can question ideas and beliefs while also respecting differences. We are not only committed to diversity of people and ideas, but also to inclusive and respectful communication that allows richer and deeper learning and understanding. It is a proud hallmark of what we value as Pacificans.

Our work at Pacific today is more important than ever. We must be formidable in our commitment never to tolerate the divisiveness born from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomics or immigration status. We must be alert and bring added support for members of our Pacific community who may be facing bias on or off our campuses, particularly those groups specifically called out during the political campaign. We encourage you to call on our Bias Response Team if you experience or observe any kind of bias or discriminatory behavior. By fostering mutual respect and a safe atmosphere for civil debate, we demonstrate the values that bind us as a campus and a community, and become not only a stronger organization, but a powerful force that can leave the world a better place.

This is what it means to be a Pacifican. It means we stand together, for all Tigers, at all times.

University resources are available for anyone who may need support after this polarizing election season. For students, Counseling and Psychological Services can be reached at (209) 946-2315, ext. 2. For staff, the Employee Assistance Program offers counseling resources at (877) 595-5281. In addition, the Office of the Chaplain can be reached at (209) 946-2538.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Eibeck, Maria Pallavicini and Patrick K. Day