

## InclusiveVT Let's Talk

December 10, 2014

These are the notes of student feedback and personal stories shared during the open mic portion of the event. It is not reflective of table conversations or conversations that continued afterward in the Black Cultural Center and the Multicultural Center in Squires.

- Education on race/race relations should be required
- White people who go to Africa to “learn” when they could just look around and do work in their own communities.
- If something is on your mind, say it.
- Athletes did not get involved because they thought they could lose scholarships, this shows you how valuable diverse community members are
- GTA trainings should be mandatory on diversity and how to create teaching moments; GTAs can make students better
- White privilege – I have to acknowledge my power; it's going to be uncomfortable but it's how change will happen.
- Don't hate the people, hate the system
- Bring awareness
- West Ambler Johnston is very racist but is also very important to our community. How do we change our priorities?
- Racism from a cadet was experienced during the march. Assumption that these would be the most upstanding students on campus.
- Folks feel the tension in their dorms.
- Some of us (black students) are here on 100% academic scholarship.
- Not just about Mike Brown, understand Eric Garner as well
- It won't always be black folks, it can be other races later if we don't fix this
- Complacent people should be quiet because you take away from the cause
- Use your privilege to educate others around you
- Students should be taking a bottom up approach to solve this
- Reflection of “what I know about my whiteness”
- Administration is focusing on this, they care about us/this, we are moving forward – let's work with them
- Anonymous folks on social media are cowards
- Give Dr. Sands a break
- We need to love one another
- Grateful to both talk and listen
- Take time to learn & teach, be patient
- Not just a VT issue but also a community and a town issue – continue to show up and invite others
- Stop cheapening words that are important – acknowledge areas of fault, be real, invite others in
- Gateway is a trick, would I have been better at HBCU, ODU, GMU? – relationships and mentorship needed – what can we do?
- Where are all the black kids in my class? (after attending gateway and transitioning to fall)

- Racially themed parties are not okay – people see us as a costume, not a person – it's on us – students need to stop this
- We should require conversations on this
- Ignorance exists on this campus, I am numb to it
- Make this campus more diverse
- InclusiveVT – top down or bottom up?
- How is the 41 page document from the first forum being used?
- It is important what we do about this: promoting diversity, CLE course on diversity, how do we get African American faculty, marketing to African American students, gateway weekend, recruiters go to college fairs and high schools, funding to the Gate's programs, SGA diversity money is underfunded
- I'm a Hokie – how do you define yourself? If we build better communities, we change the world. We do that by being more diverse.
- How many forums will we have? Who is listening?
- I was marching to feel community.
- Note about low black graduation rate, faculty/student relationships should be enhanced; we have an exclusionary past but we can still invent the future through Ut Prosim
- Undergrad vs graduate experience – I expected more, VT has fallen short
- Need a non-discrimination policy for clubs/orgs
- Why are there no students on InclusiveVT
- I want you to lose sleep
- Privilege – white people saying it doesn't apply to me
- 3.9% African American is really bad – in application process, color-blind admissions (implicit bias)
- Should be respected for all that I am & how hard I have worked
- Yik yak broke my heart, I'm now marching for my life