



November 11, 2016:

A Message to the Ohio State Student Body from the Undergraduate Student Government

Dear Students,

The Undergraduate Student Government at The Ohio State University would like to extend our support and solidarity to all students who have felt unsafe and unsupported on campus in the days following the recent election. Our community should feel like a home to everyone; no one should ever feel in danger because of who they are or their political affiliations, regardless of political party. We refuse to tolerate hate speech and violence on our campus. We stand in solidarity with those who peacefully protest, and condemn those who would use violence to further their views. We will continue our work towards creating a campus environment that is inclusive and supportive, and that environment must ensure the health, safety, and physical and mental well-being of all students.

The Ohio State University Counseling and Consultation Service is available for any students who need support during this time. CCS is available at <http://www.ccs.osu.edu> or (614) 292-5766. CCS After Hours, a support service offered 24/7, can be reached by calling the phone number and pressing option 2. Further resources and hotlines can be found at tinyurl.com/osuccs.

The Bias Assessment Response Team (BART) at Ohio State defines a bias incident as any act or behavior motivated by the offender's bias against age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

We encourage all students to learn how to effectively respond to incidents of bias, as well as better understand issues involving bias and discrimination. BART is available to any student looking to learn more or to report an incident of bias. Incidents that occur in a residence hall, any library, a student organization, the classroom, or any other space on campus can be reported. Students can visit <http://go.osu.edu/bias> for more information. We strongly encourage any student who has witnessed, suffered, or survived an incident of bias to report it at goo.gl/FKIVsV.

Elections often bring great divide, but we must remember that in order for Buckeyes to unite as a family, we must promote discourse and dialogue and treat our fellow students, especially those with different identities than ours, with the respect and dignity they deserve. Next Friday, November 18th, from 5pm-7pm, the USG's Health and Safety Committee will be hosting "Cakes and Conversation," an open dialogue about the election in the Baker Hall East Rec Room. All students are welcome. Furthermore, if students have any concerns that they would like USG to address, please do not hesitate to reach out to President Gerard Basalla.⁶ Vice President Danielle DiScala.¹ Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Tony Buss.⁴³ or Director of Health and Safety Sophie Chang.¹³¹⁰