

Dear Graduate Students,

The Executive Board of the Graduate Student Association continues to stand with students of color and their allies. The most recent racial incidents on campus have led to several events on campus and calls to administration to support marginalized students in the Boston College community. These incidents include, but are not limited to, vandalism of a Black Lives Matter poster to read “Black Lives Don’t Matter,” repeated erasure of the word “Hispanic” on a student’s dry erase board that read “Hispanic Heritage Month,” a snapchat post with a picture of a steak and cheese sandwich that was captioned “I like my steak like I like my slaves,” the posting of signs that urged students to not apologize for being white, and the throwing of fried chicken at a student of color and her friends. Though these racially motivated incidents directly involved undergraduate students, we as graduate students feel just as disturbed. Graduate and undergraduate students are all members of the Boston College community and we must work together to promote equality and justice on and off campus.

The Graduate Student Association is partnering with the Vice President of Student Affairs to host a dinner next week. A small group of graduate students will have the opportunity to discuss personal experiences at Boston College with Dr. Barbara Jones and learn about the resources available to graduate students. This conversation will hopefully be one of many across campus that will address graduate student concerns and provide solutions to better serve our unique population.

The Graduate Student Association assists in the coordination and function of several Affinity Groups, including the Graduate Students of Color Association. The Graduate Students of Color Association celebrates, supports, and engages the students at Boston College who come from various racial and ethnic minority backgrounds using the three pillars of identity, advocacy, and community. As a supporter of the Graduate Students of Color Association, the Graduate Student Association refuses to tolerate racially charged discrimination.

The Executive Board of the Graduate Student Association encourages the continuation of conversation and promotes action towards strengthening the Boston College community. The discriminatory actions towards students of color on this campus must be addressed and used as a lesson to avoid a similar situation in the future. Education about the narratives students of color may identify with must be recognized, along with continued conversation about what type of behavior is wrong and why. Ultimately, we hope for a written process for corrective action and institutional policy and mission reform that will discourage racism of any form.

We ask that all members of the Boston College community stand together and remember that this is our home, and we must care for it as such.

Respectfully,  
The Executive Board of the Graduate Student Association

Jasmine Hamm, Executive Director  
Peter Lee, Director of Finance  
Megan Ottati, Director of Programming