



Crucial Conversations Town Hall Notes
Dean of Students Office + Social Justice Initiative Center
4:30 - 6:30 PM COB2 110
February 16th, 2018

- Marco Ideas
 - Honoring the past
 - 2013 Campus Climate Data
 - Over 56% of student respondents left isolated or left out, and roughly 40% left intimidated and bullied.
 - From the Students of Color Conference at UC Berkeley, the Intercultural Hub emerged
 - Students advocated for this space
 - From various 2016 focus groups, certain themes emerged surround how the Hub would be used, including but not limited to: diversity, conversation, resources, safe space, and connecting.
 - “There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle, because we do not live single-issue lives.” - Audre Lorde
 - Recognizing the present
 - Discussion Activity
 - 1. Why are cultural spaces important and UC Merced?
 - Students and staff responded with overarching themes of being, security, safety, healing, and resetting.
 - 2. How can cultural spaces help students and the larger community thrive?
 - Students and staff responded with themes of resetting, assisting academics, cultural affirmation, safety, collectiveness, and collaboration.
 - Planning for the future
 - Through means of community, care, accountability, and transparency, the goal is submitting a vetted proposal by Spring 2018
 - Town halls
 - Next one is April 17th, 2018 in COB 105
 - Online survey

- Available from March 1st to April 6th on Dean of Students website and will be sent via email as well
- Individual meetings
 - Onar Primitivo has an open door policy (KL 167) and is available via appointment (oprimitivo@ucmerced.edu)
 - AVC/DOS Dr. Jonathan Grady has an open door policy (KL 113) and is available via appointment (jgrady2@ucmerced.edu)
 - AVC/DOS Intern Kamyar Nekoui has office hours (KL 113) from 8-10am on M and F, and 9-10am on W, in addition to appointments (knekoui@ucmerced.edu)
- Focus groups
 - Undergraduate students (please email spierce2@ucmerced.edu)
 - Feb. 20th 4-5pm
 - Feb. 21st 12-1pm
 - Graduate students (please email oprimitivo@ucmerced.edu)
 - Feb. 20th 4-5pm
 - Feb. 21st 12-1pm
 - Staff (please email jgrady2@ucmerced.edu)
 - Feb. 21st 12-1pm
 - Faculty (please email oprimitivo@ucmerced.edu)
 - Feb. 20th 12-1pm
- Club/orgs meetings
 - Please feel free to invite Onar, Dr. Grady, and/or Kamyar to the next meeting your club or organization hosts; we would love to share and receive feedback.
- Communication
 - The Dean of Students website will contain a variety of updates (including notes such as these), such as the monthly communication letter Kamyar Nekoui posts on behalf of the DOS office.

Note: In an effort to keep confidentiality (as promised to the participants), these macro-level notes have been shared in place of a verbatim transcript which would potentially include a range of identifiers. For those seeking more detail regarding content shared in the presentation, the powerpoint has been posted on the DOS Website (studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students) as well.