

Off Campus Study Breakout Session

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM, June 24

Discussion Moderators: Lakesia Johnson, gender women and sexuality studies, Chief Diversity Officer, Vrinda Varia, Director of Intercultural Affairs and Maure Smith-Benati, Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

S&B Reporters: Ingrid Meulemans

Two Pandemics

- The virus and systematic racism
- “We are here for you, we just need you to reach out if you need us.”

Administration

- In addition to information sent out by the College, Black people on campus (staff, faculty, student, alum) are actively looking for ways to come together while on-campus or off-campus

Relationships and Safety on and off Campus

- The Office of Diversity has currently gathered together a group of people to partner with both Campus Safety and people in town in order to create an inclusive and safe system for students living on campus
- CAs will not be on campus, so relationships will be between RAs and residents
- Johnson is about to meet with Campus Safety and the Captian of the Grinnell Police Department
- The whole idea of the scurry is to group people who know each other and are already interacting with each other
- The College and SHAW are working to sign a contract with a provider that will help students who are on the College’s insurance receive tele-mental and physical health services
- There will be intentional spaces for students of color to come together this upcoming year (online and in-person)
- The College hired two new counselors with different identities in hopes to relate to more students
- No student will be forced to come to campus
- Really prioritizing building new relationships
- Men of Color group will still continue online

PCPOP, MLC and QPOP

- PCPOP will not occur in the same form at the beginning at this year. They are currently working on creating a different type of mentorship program that feels authentic and has similar goals as PCPOP for the fall.
- Having discussions about budget throughout this week, but want to prioritize these programs because they are an important part of the Grinnell community
- May abbreviate training in order to fit these organizations into a shortened semesters (Ex: PCPOP leaders, etc.)
- Physical spaces like the MLC suites, BCC and SRC anticipate having programming coming out in the fall and are planning on virtual interaction
 - ◆ Overall, spaces should be able to be used “as normal” if you are on campus (use with safety precautions)
- Not sure if there will be monitors for these programs at this time
- MLC leadership will rely heavily on former leadership and communication in order to train future leaders
- Being off-campus will not prohibit students from being in positions of leadership

Jobs

- Nondiscrimination policies are still in effect
- Jobs are not being saved for people in privileged groups at the College
- The Office of Diversity is committed to keeping students employed

Athletics

- As of now, there is no plan in place to try and get in contact with Black and Brown athletes, but they are hoping to develop one