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Subject: A Student Concern was Brought to ASI Student Government that needs Attention

Hello,

It has been brought to our attention, in our capacity as the leaders of ASI Student Government, which is the recognized voice of CI students, that are grave regarding recent actions made by Professor [REDACTED]. These concerns surrounded topics of unprofessionalism, threats to students, an abuse of power, and potential fear of acts of retaliation.

The following (and attached) was shared with us by a student, regarding Professor [REDACTED]. First Year Learning Community course:

- Student filed for a withdrawal
- Professor read the comments on the withdrawal form
- Professor proceeded to write a 4-page response, attached their CV, and sent to students in their canvas inboxes, attached are some examples of this, which we deem as unprofessional, threatening, abuse of power, and acts of retaliation:
- Referred to students dropping the course as “cutting losses”
- Referred to situation as “an academic version of a toddler temper tantrum”
- Stated that “there is no good reason for it, except perhaps for a strong sense of entitlement. It’s almost funny and cute at times, until it goes too far. And it has.”
- Stated “I don’t see the point of being in the classroom without trying to learn.”
- Stated “To the temper-tantrum crowd: I am in charge of this class. You can complain to the Dean, Provost, President, and Chancellor. I will not be intimidated. My class, my rules, and above all, my standards. And drop the “but I pay tuition” attitude.”
- Stated “Work or quit, you choose, but you will not “get passed.” To quit, go talk to counselors or to deans or the Registrar, because I will not sign off on late drops. Wasting society’s scarce resources for not wanting to do the work to learn should come with consequences.”
- In reference to the professor’s friend, “She pays taxes in CA, and she will never have the chance to go to college. She works harder to pay for your education than some of you do to attain it.”

In our role in Student Government and CI's role as a whole, our mission is to place students at the center of their educational experiences. The actions of Professor [REDACTED], we believe should not be tolerated in any form. Students should not be in fear of their professors or that their professors are unapproachable. Students should not be blamed for the lack of self-reflection by their professors or that professors would make them feel hopeless, called entitled, or told to "work or quit" by their professors. Hearing all this from the student was indeed disheartening, as we know personally that there are great professors on our campus, and unfortunately one bad professor can truly ruin a student's experience at CI and even affect their ability to graduate.

With our universities population consisting of 62% of First-Generation students, we need professors that are equipped to teach, support, and encourage all students, especially those who historically have difficult upbringings, socioeconomic statuses, and daily barriers to their education.

Keeping mind that this course was a part of a First Year Learning Community course, which means that the students are unable to choose their professor and are automatically enrolled in the course. There should be zero tolerance for this kind of behavior from our faculty, especially for those that are engaging with first year students during their first semester at CI.

With all the above and attached in mind, and the goal of putting students at the center of their educational experience we believe action needs to be taken, so this does not happen to any other students by this Professor again.

The questions we have for next steps:

- With this information, what can the Division of Academic Affairs & MVS do to ensure that this behavior is addressed, corrected, and prevented?
- How are first year learning community professors vetted/screened?
- How can we ensure approachable, professional, and supportive faculty are supporting all our students, but especially our First-Year students?

If you would prefer to discuss this in person, we are more than happy to do so, as we feel this is a timely matter for the future wellbeing of CI students.

We know that you all have the best intentions for the students of CI, and hence felt it was pertinent that this be shared with each of you, so that all our students can be valued, supported, and at the center of their educational experience.

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