March 14, 2019

**JSGA student body presidents released the following statement regarding Hate Crimes and Bias-Related Incidents:**

With the establishment of the Jesuit Student Government Alliance (JSGA), we, student body presidents at Jesuit institutions across the United States, collectively recognize and condemn the trend of prejudice and discrimination that still extends across our campuses.

Many of our communities have experienced prominent hate crimes and bias-related incidents. Our peers at Boston College, St. Joseph’s University, College of the Holy Cross, and Regis University, among others, have endured high-profile instances of discrimination this academic year. Each of these events has deeply harmed our students and communities, continuing to demonstrate that Jesuit Catholic institutions are not exempt from ingrained cultural norms that discriminate against individuals on the basis of identity. These norms are further expressed through microaggressions and day-to-day incidents, both inside and outside of the classroom, that degrades our students’ sense of safety and belonging.

Identifying and reacting to only the most prominent examples of bias cannot fully deconstruct the attitudes that encourage them. It is far past time that each of our institutions takes comprehensive and impactful steps to build more equitable communities, and we are committed to addressing the normalization of prejudice in collaboration with our respective administrations. Change must come from all levels of our community -- students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and the Board of Trustees. We as students need to hold ourselves accountable and address these issues at every level at our institutions. The initiatives below engage critical areas in the improvement of our campus cultures. While some institutions may have steps and initiatives in place, we believe all institutions should:

- Review and update pre-arrival education, orientation, and first-year programs to include more programming around diversity, inclusion, and equity;
- Work to implement social justice initiatives and experiential learning into academic curriculums;
- Provide mandatory diversity and inclusion competency training for student groups and organizations, faculty, and staff;
• Expand resources for victims or other members of the community who are affected by these incidents;
• Pursue avenues for continued collaboration with critical stakeholders and the greater campus community.

We recognize that the timelines of these action items will vary by institution; however, we believe they are necessary to foster change.

***

The undersigned members of the JSGA:

Anusha Mannam                               Matthew Coughlin                               Meredith Gillespie
SGLC President                               SGA President                                 MUSG President
Loyola University Chicago                    University of Scranton                          Marquette University

Blair McKee                                  Connor Sullivan                                Katlyn Martin
SGA President                                USG Executive President                        SGA President
Xavier University                            Fordham University (RH)                        Saint Louis University

Athena Sok                                    Michael Bishop                                 Claire Webster
GSBA President                                JCSG President                                 Student Senate President
Gonzaga University                           John Carroll University                        Rockhurst University

Ryan Campen                                   Juan Martinez                                  Sierra Ambrose
SGA President                                GUSA President                                 SGA President
Saint Peter's University                     Georgetown University                           Loyola University
New Orleans

Adrian Cacho & Meredith Coolidge              Demetrios Stratis                              Jason D'Antonio
SGA Co-Presidents                            USG President                                 USS President
College of the Holy Cross                    Fordham University (LC)                       Saint Joseph’s University

Reed Piercey                                  Ben Westphal                                   Matthew Smardz
UGBC President                                SGA President                                 USA President
Boston College                                University of Detroit Mercy                    Canisius College

Alo Coleman                                  Rico Gomez                                    Regis University
ASLMU President                              RUSGA President
Loyola Marymount University