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The Correlation is a Causation: A Look into Social Justice and Civility at IWU

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THE CORRELATION IS A CAUSATION : A LOOK INTO SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVILITY AT IWU



PRESENTERS: QUENTIN JACKSON, NGAN PHAM, SHAELA PHILLIPS

WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER???



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CIVILITY?

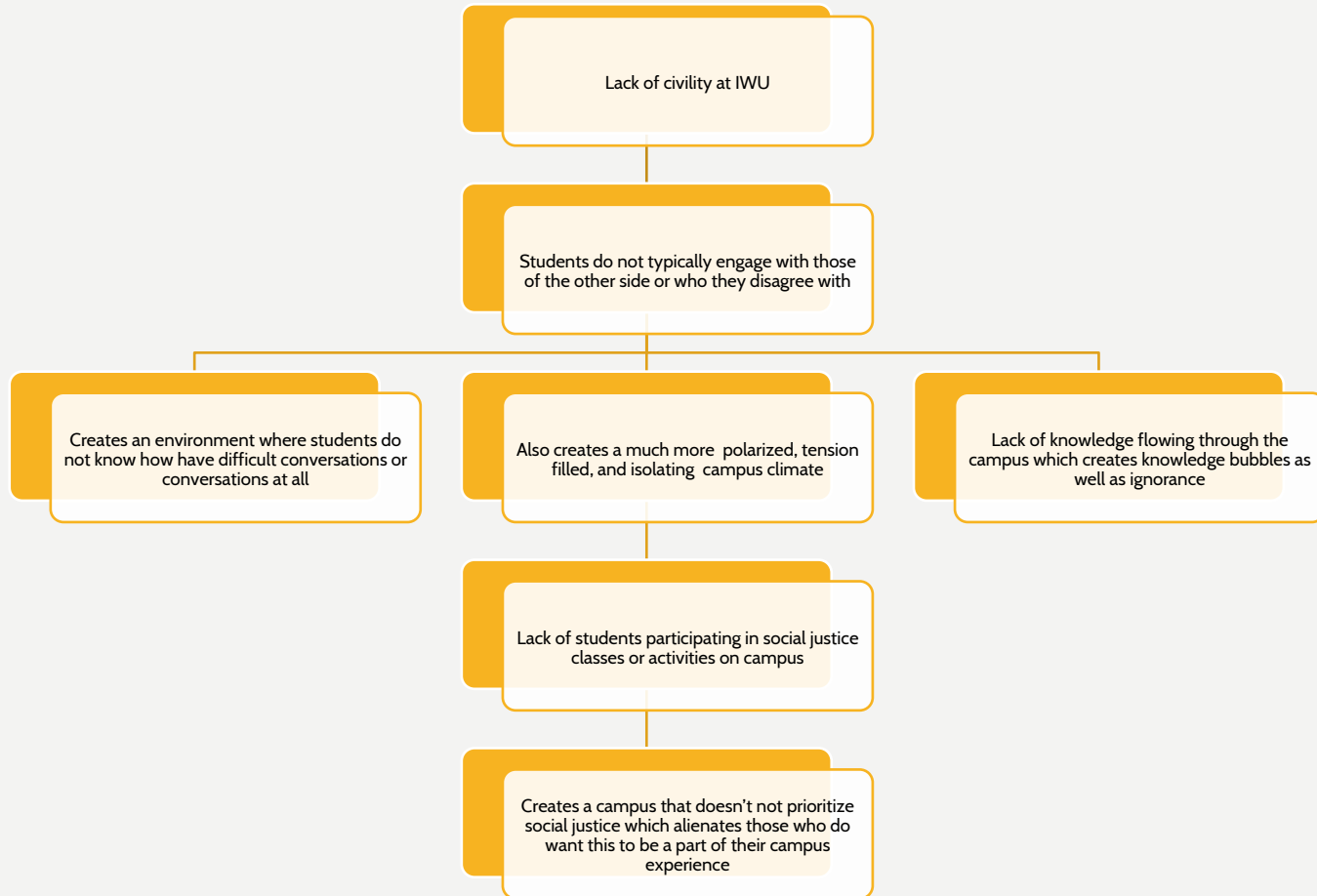
- What is civility?
 - Civility is the act of formal politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech.
- Why is civility important?
 - It enables people to have a forum where they can discuss their viewpoints, even if those viewpoints are different from your own.
 - It may also give you a better understanding on your position on a certain topic/ or issue.
 - It instigates and helps maintain an open mind about controversial topics (tying it back to the acknowledgement of various viewpoints).



CIVILITY OR RATHER THE LACK THEREOF

Shaela's Experience	Quentin's Experience	Ivana's Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where? Inside the classroom• What? A mock debate between two groups in my international human rights class on the topic of immigration• Who? Between my group and another group• Why? Student representative from the anti-immigration group presented their view in a very disrespectful way while the rest of the group found it humorous. "You're illegal," and "You don't belong here".	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where? Tommy's• What? Sitting down conversing, listening to music in a public setting. All of sudden a Caucasian male decided to stand up and scream across the restaurant, "You didn't ask us what we wanted to listen to, turn it off"!• Who? A couple of my friends and this guy from the baseball team.• Why? He tried to show off in front of his teammates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where? Gateway class/ TOL group• What? Playing hotspot, a game where you asks another person probing/challenging questions• Who? Ivana and another student playing the game• Why? Gets asked are you for or against Trump. Tells her that he's against illegal immigrants being in America.

RESULTS OF THE LACK OF CIVILITY



Possible Solutions #1: TAKE A STANCE AND HOLD STRONG

Solutions

- IWU should voice that they are Pro Free Speech and encourage students to voice their opinions in a **RESPECTFUL MANNER**
- IWU should respond to acts or incidents of incivility with much more of a serious tone with possible punishments or consequences against those who commit such acts
- IWU vs ISU response
- IWU should promote the importance of social justice through programing and creating spaces where students feel safe speaking their opinions
- Kalamazoo College's Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership = IWU Social Justice & Diversity Room

Results

- This could help students feel more comfortable with voicing their opinions as well as help students engage in engage in difficult conversations in a more effective manner
- Enables students to know that their will be consequences for their uncivil actions, which can possibly lower the amount of uncivil incidents on campus as well as show students that the university does care
- Allows student to have a space where they can feel comfortable to voice their diverse opinions with others as well as gives them the opportunity to turn those opinions into more than just opinions by using those opinions to further their involvement with social justice

IWU CODE OF CONDUCT

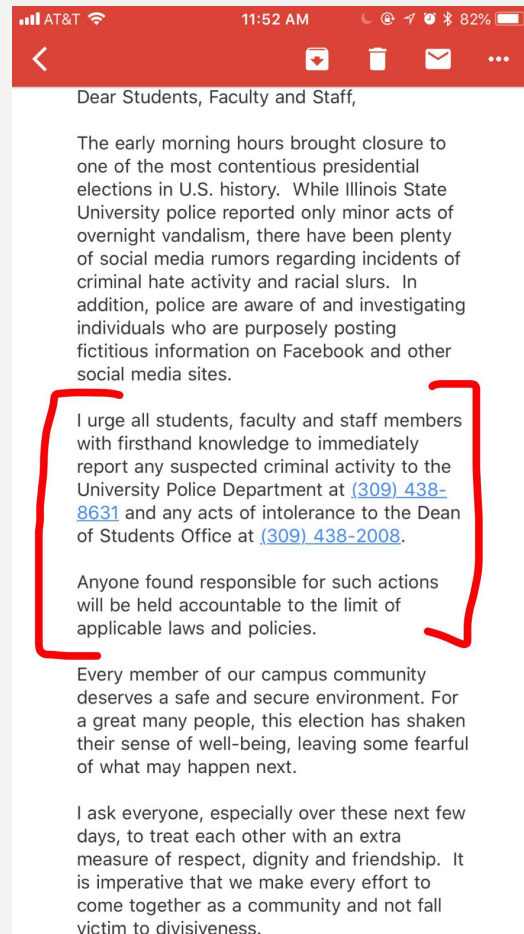
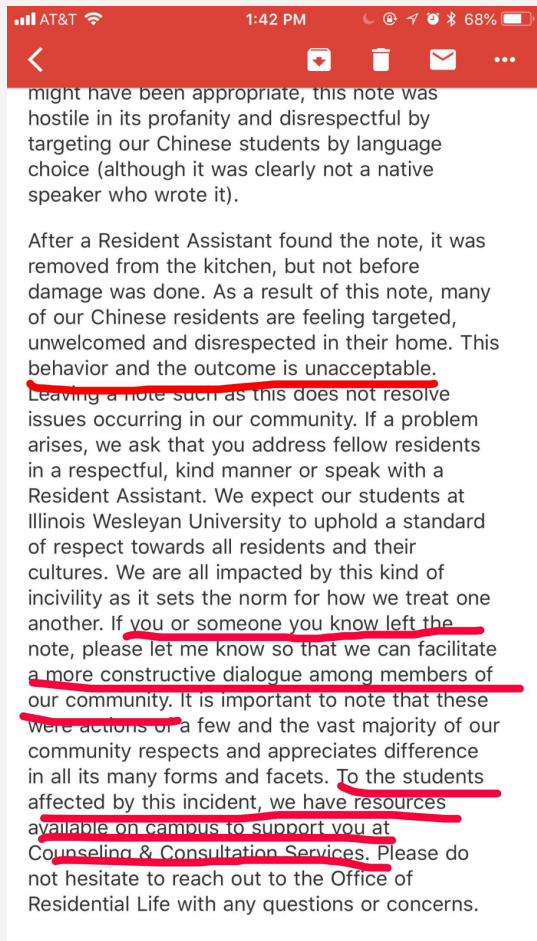
Freedom of Expression or Movement

Violations shall consist of but are not limited to:

1. “Preventing a speaker or those listening to him/her from voicing or hearing his/her ideas.”

Harassment and Intolerance

- “Illinois Wesleyan University does not tolerate harassment based on racial, ethnic, gender, religious or other hostility.”
- “This definition of harassment specifically includes verbal acts, which are intended to insult or stigmatize an individual or group of individuals based on their race or color, their ethnicity, their sexual or religious orientation, or a disability”
- “Harassment can include, but is not limited to, hostile or intimidating verbal or written statements or symbols, or physical threats or intimidating conduct”
- “The University will take appropriate disciplinary action against those found to have committed harassment, up to and including dismissal from the university.”



Kalamazoo College: Arcus Center for Social Justice



- Center that focuses specifically on providing students, faculty, and staff members with the resources and support to become leaders in human rights and social justice
- Holds different workshops and events throughout the year to facilitate discussion as well as to educate students
- Actively involves students through summer internships and student

IWU: Social Justice and Diversity Room



- Room that houses different books that can act as a resource for students interested in social justice topics
- Study/work space for students that is supposed to feel very warm and welcoming

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS #2: THE CLASSROOM APPROACH

Solutions

- Challenge students to speak up on their viewpoints
- - teaches that talking about these issues isn't taboo or looked down upon just because they're sensitive or controversial
- - the difference between being open-minded and civil versus being insulting

Results

- Promotes healthy dialogue in a neutral safe space that allows everyone to voice their opinions
- Outside the classroom
 - - applying civility
 - - less hesitation speaking about controversial topics

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS #3: Forums outside of the classroom

Solutions

Provide and promote the events that require people to discuss touchy topics

Possible events:

- Mock debates between College Dems and Rep
- Rallies and protests (DACA, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes)
- Require/incentivize students to go 3D's and other events centered around diversity and social justice
- Create a space like Kalamazoo College Social Justice Center

Results

- Forums outside of the classroom would allow students the opportunity to voice their opinions on controversial topics.
- In turn, if students are engaging in dialogue outside of the classroom they may feel more inclined to speak up in class when dense topics arise and outside of the class when they see someone's identity being challenged

WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN K-12 ABOUT BLACK HISTORY?

Slavery = a blip in U.S. history but...

1) others did it, too; and

2) the Civil War righted our wrong.

Isn't that a relief?!

?!
no way.
still
deal w/
racism
today

some slave
masters treated
their slaves
"humanely"

(implication: a
Slave's life wasn't
necessarily all bad)
↑? Not the point?

