Dear Gettysburgians,

Since the beginning of classes, three bias incidents have been reported to the College Life Office. These are incidents where students have made comments towards others that are ethnically biased, including ethnic slurs. We appreciate that members of our community are taking the initiative to file formal reports, and we are extremely concerned and offended that ethnic slurs are occurring on our campus.

Today, one incident was reported that may rise to the level of criminal behavior. The incident is reported to have occurred at the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity chapter house in the early morning hours of Sunday, September 15th during the fraternity’s social event. A bystander reported that a student was singled out, identified by his ethnicity, and told to leave a fraternity by a member of the chapter. He was then shoved out one of the doors of the fraternity. The incident is being investigated by the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. As part of DPS’s procedure, the Gettysburg Borough Police have been notified. Should new information become available as to the status of the investigation, the community will be updated via the digests.

While we have a duty to warn students about any incident that may be of a criminal nature, we also want to convey that this incident violates the values that we hold dear as a community. President Riggs has challenged us all with creating a more welcoming and inclusive community—a community where everyone participates fully in the life and activities of the college. Every student should be able to enjoy and make the most of their college experience without bias or intimidation. I urge each of you to do everything you can to uphold our core values for the good of our entire community.

Sincerely,

Dean Julie L. Ramsey