

TO: Members of the Working Group on Diversity, Inclusion and the Learning Environment (WG)

Cc: Dean Amy Wildermuth, Vice Dean Hamoudi

FROM: David Harris, Chair

DATE: July 18, 2018

RE: Update

Dear Members of the WG:

I'm writing with a brief update for you, as we get into the last part of the School of Law's summer break and hurtle toward the orientation with the new 1 L class and then the Fall 2018 semester.

Amy, Haider, and the staff members and faculty working on the the orientation have revamped the full experience, with the aim of focusing on many of the same issues that we have. They have incorporated many of the WG's suggestions. As just one example, they will be making use of the credo the WG created; it will serve as a kind of centerpiece for the whole effort.

As of now, the School of Law will be creating a webpage (as part of Pitt Law's website) that will house the WG's various reporting documents, all of which you have seen; the credo, and the three action ideas from Amy that we endorsed recently. This is important, so that our entire community can see what the WG had done, and because we want to do the best job we can of explaining it in a transparent way. The hope is that the website will be a permanent part of the law school's presence, much like the page at UCLA, <https://law.ucla.edu/student-life/diversity/>.

I'm attaching here the information we reviewed on possible training resources on diversity and inclusion topics; thank you looking them over. Since the comments received were almost entirely positive, all of the information I sent to you will go to Amy and Haider as they plan the particulars of these topics for orientation. (For those of you who gave me specific comments on these suggested resources, I will forward them also, separately, unless you tell me you would prefer that I don't.)

The WG has accomplished a great deal. The work stands as a significant tribute to your willingness to give your time and effort to the School of Law (and during the summer, no less). Building on the ideas and recommendations of this group, Amy has committed to begin work on a strategic, long-term plan for inclusive excellence at the law school early this fall. She'll be in touch with the entire law school community with more details on moving forward in the coming weeks.

DH