

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**U N I V E R S I T Y**

April 20, 2012

Dear Black Student Alliance Executive Board:

At our meeting on April 11, 2012, I indicated that I would provide you with a signed, written communication from me that represents the university's commitment to implement the various initiatives identified in the response provided to BSA at the March 30, 2012, meeting.

I want to extend my appreciation to BSA and the team of administrators that worked together on these matters since our first meeting on October 28, 2011. A series of very serious incidents initially were the impetus for our meetings. However, as I stated in our most recent meeting, we are better off today than we were in fall 2011. Your efforts and our efforts together, have resulted in several positive steps forward. While we may not agree on all of the approaches, I think we do agree that whatever happens next arises out of the shared goal of student safety and success.

Those things we've committed to doing that were reflected in the March 30, 2011, response, as amended after our meeting of last week, will be done. A revised document is attached. It incorporates my additional responses to the three issues that were the focus of our meeting on April 11; staffing within the residence halls (Intercultural Aides and Resident Assistants), AAAS, and a free standing multicultural center. Modifications to the March 30 document appear in bold for ease of reference.



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I am encouraged by our recent discussions. I appreciated hearing first hand your position on a free standing multicultural center and your understanding of the role such space plays in promoting cross-cultural experiences and the intercultural engagement of students. I expressed my enthusiasm for your idea that MSU can and should be a model for multicultural/intercultural student engagement. As stated in our discussions and reflected at different points in the enclosed response, it is our intent that students be a more active partner in current and future initiatives related to the various items we've discussed.

I recognize that we are nearing the end of the spring semester. I do regard the work that has taken place to date as a good first start. We have not agreed on everything, but we have made significant progress. Our desire is to continue our discussions into the fall semester 2012, especially with regard to the issues of staffing and refining the concept of space that promotes intercultural engagement of students and the broader campus community for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sincerely,

Lou Anna K. Simon, Ph.D.  
President