



October 30, 2020

Dear Student Affairs Team:

Can you believe that we are almost 2/3 the way through the fall semester? This term has been flying by quickly. Before you know it, we will be on winter break and gearing up for the spring term. Thank you for all of your hard work and positive attitudes as we've moved through and navigated the COVID pandemic and discovered new ways of supporting our students. I appreciate you all!

Everywhere you turn, there are discussions about the upcoming elections. There is certainly plenty of uncertainty about the outcomes and how our communities will respond. Many of you worked together to develop a list of programs designed to help support and encourage dialogue and communication. Thank you to all that contributed to that list of events ([Bears in Action](#)).

Also, I'm sure you've seen or discussed many other information pieces that have been shared to help facilitate civil dialogue and answer questions. For example, hopefully you read this week's [Clif's Notes](#) in *InsideMissouriState*. Additionally, I have encouraged each of our AVP's to share, remind and discuss the expressive activity policy and other resources with all of you during departmental meetings ("The 2020 Election Season and Aftermath: [Preparation in Higher Education Communities](#)" or "[Free Speech Guide for Student Affairs](#)"). Another document that you may have seen is a "[talking points](#)" memo that provides important information about voting. Each of these documents provides information that is hopefully helpful to you in working with students and with your colleagues.

As members of the Student Affairs Team, I know that you all are working very hard, long hours. There is no shortage of important work to be done and there are so many changes/pivots underway. These are challenging times... but please know that you are appreciated and valued. Our work is important to our students in helping to ensure that they are getting a holistic education and meaningful experiences along the way. Thank you all... thank you for everything that you are doing! Don't forget to vote on November 3rd, if not before, and let your voice be heard! Go BEARS!

Dr. Dee Siscoe
Vice President for Student Affairs