



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2020

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ASMSU Statement on Ask President Stanley

Dear Spartan Community,

On Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, ASMSU hosted an event called "Ask President Stanley." The purpose of the event was to provide students the opportunity to ask questions and interact with President Stanley. ASMSU used a website called "Slido" where students could anonymously submit their questions during the event and "like" other questions submitted to move them to the top of the list. This technology was to allow the audience to self-select which questions were most important to them. Throughout the event, numerous racist and hateful comments were anonymously submitted to Slido.

While the moderator was unable to physically see the racist comments real-time, he was able to address the comments at the end of this event. We should have addressed this immediately, we allowed it to continue by waiting until the end of the event. ASMSU takes full accountability for not fully protecting black students.

Following the event, ASMSU contacted MSU Police for an investigation and Slido for IP address recognition of the racist comments submitted. These comments are reflective of the blatant racism that exists within the campus culture. ASMSU is determined to continue our advocacy efforts in regard to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). This session, the ASMSU General Assembly passed Bill 56-31, a bill advocating for mandatory annual DEI training and our staff has participated in DEI training. ASMSU stands in support and solidarity with the Black Students' Alliance.

No student, regardless of their identity, should feel unsafe on this campus. We are committed to creating a culture of inclusivity and safety at our events in which these sentiments are not welcomed. If you believe in any of the racist comments expressed, you have no place at ASMSU.

We encourage students to participate in BSA's Community Forum on Tuesday, Feb. 18, in Brody Hall auditorium at 6 p.m. This will be a safe space for students to voice their concerns and support each other.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please email our Chief Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer at diversity@asmsu.msu.edu.

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