To the Education Department,

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Ben Hauptman, a member of the class of 2009. This year, I have been involved in the continuing efforts to make this campus a more open, accepting, and safe place for people of all cultures. Recently, I helped plan this fall's Rally for Real Multiculturalism, a very successful event that allowed us to gather up a large group of people all united towards the same goal: providing everyone on this campus with opportunities to learn about and discuss issues of multiculturalism.

Recently, those of us who planned the rally met with Dean Noel James and discussed where we need to go from here. Many ideas fluttered about this meeting, but the one that all of us agreed needed to be addressed was some sort of all-college academic requirement that gave people the vocabulary to have the sorts of discussions we need to be having about multiculturalism. The idea came about because a number of CCOR members went to Bro Adams and asked what the chances of such an idea becoming a reality would be. While he gave them the impression that the chances are slim, we decided that we would like to come up with a way to, at the very least, get this idea out in the open and put as much support behind it as possible.

Our request, once it is made a reality, would involve asking the college to come up with a course, or a number of courses, that could fulfill some sort of multicultural distribution requirement for every student on campus (a lofty goal, we know). Unfortunately, this is a vague idea at the moment. All of us that met agreed that in order to give an adequate presentation to the administration and Board of Trustees, we would need to know a number of things, namely:

- Why we need to have such a requirement in place
- What this requirement would look like
- What sorts of tools we would be providing for students in these classes to prepare them for a continuing discussion over these issues
- How we would structure these classes
- How we would follow up these classes with opportunities to use these tools

While there are certainly more issues to address, these are certainly
the core details we need to have in place. In order to do that, we would like to ask all of you for your help.

Firstly, we would like to ask for your support. Without a large number of faculty, staff, and students backing this idea, no one will take it seriously enough to get us anywhere near making this requirement a reality. Having the professors take this issue seriously is a large step towards making this a reality because the professors would be the ones teaching the material. Without your support, this cause will mean little to the powers that be. We would very much appreciate and love to have your support.

Secondly, we would like to know if this issue is something any of you have already given some significant consideration and thought. There are so many isolated pockets of people on this campus working towards the same goals, so one of our goals is to get everyone united towards this cause and on the same page. So, if you already have any ideas as to how to answer those four questions above, we would love to hear them and begin putting them all together.

Thirdly, if you have not given this much thought but would like to help out, we would love to hear what you have to say. There are so many things that would need to be done, the first one being a clear description of what we are trying to accomplish. We are going to need a lot of input to get this done, and any input any of you can give us would be immensely appreciated.

Finally, if I could meet with any of you to discuss these ideas, that would be awesome (it would be great if I could talk to all of you at once, although the logistics will probably be difficult). I know that everyone should be discussing issues of multiculturalism, which means that we should also be discussing how to address these issues of multiculturalism. If we could have a discussion about this sometime in the near future, that would be great.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. There is a lot to say about what issues in multiculturalism we need to address on this campus, and even more to still plan and discuss. I, along with the others I have been talking to, would love to get your input. I look forward to hearing from all of you.

Sincerely,
Ben Hauptman '09
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