



January 24, 2014

Dear CDR student leader:

As you know, the College Diversity Roundtable has multiple missions that include advising the Dean, providing a forum for discussion and program development, and providing information to students from the administration.

Our goal this semester is to focus more explicitly on having students provide information and advice to me, so that I can develop a deeper understanding of climate and student life from your perspectives, and identify policies, procedures, and events that might be revised, created, or eliminated. I am committed to doing what I can in response to the issues you raise. Of course, this can work effectively only if student groups are well represented at CDR meetings. It is therefore important **to ensure that you**, or someone else representing your organization, attend each meeting.

I would like the student groups affiliated with the CDR to utilize this opportunity to submit general and specific climate issues that you and your group members would like to have discussed at the CDR. These topics can include any topic that affects your experiences at UR, such as: classroom experiences, College policies, residential life, student activities, dining services, libraries, intergroup dynamics, or any other topic you or your group would like to raise.

An example of an issue that has been raised is this: students are often instructed to divide into groups in class; I've been told that the feeling among URMs is that they feel ignored/unwelcomed in groups. A CDR discussion about this issue would potentially include comments from students about their experience in situations like this and ideas about how this can be addressed. The suggestions that emerge from such a discussion that might result in advice that I give to faculty about group formation.

The first CDR meeting for the spring semester is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 5-6:30pm. I ask that you have these matters raised at your organization's general meeting and submit a compiled list to icc@rochester.edu by Friday February 7.

I hope to see you at the next CDR meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich Feldman".

Richard Feldman