Dear Stony Brook Community,

We write in support of the student protestors at the University of Missouri and other institutions around the nation whose bravery has sparked a national conversation about racial inequality on college campuses.

We also wish to recognize the Stony Brook students who have shown their solidarity with students nationwide by holding a demonstration on campus, Friday, November 13, 2015. They also held a town hall meeting on Wednesday, November 15, with the President of the University as well as a number of other administrators.

At the town hall, students shared stories of discrimination in the classroom, on campus, and in residential life. It became clear that the lack of student, faculty, and staff diversity on campus impacts their daily lives.

These students have initiated a conversation that highlights the need for action in several key areas:

1. Increased enrollment of underrepresented racial groups at the Undergraduate and Graduate level
2. Hiring and retention of more faculty from underrepresented groups
3. Classroom environments that foster cultural sensitivity
4. An inclusive curriculum for all students
5. Opportunities for faculty/student mentorship
6. Special programs for students of color
7. Diversity and inclusion training for faculty and staff

We are aware that there are a number of task forces devoted to some of these issues. We urge more targeted and timely investment in any efforts to address current challenges on campus.

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Please note we have withheld names of junior faculty members who are in support of this letter.