

Statement from the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee

The FSDC laments the events that took place last Thursday 11/14 and Monday 11/18, the first at the spine, outside the Union, and the second in and outside of LH8.

Students with opposing political views clashed. The first was peacefully resolved whereas the second one led to police intervention with rough treatment of some students and the arrest of one of them.

We praise Vice President Brian Rose for a prompt statement that recognizes the provocative nature of the activities of the first group on both days.

We lament that the second group fell into the trap and proceeded to disrupt a speaker brought in by the first group.

Even though campus police was successful in de-escalating the Thursday confrontation, and we applaud them for that, their lack of enough preparation for Monday evening event and their rough treatment of students leaves much to be desired.

We are very concerned with the threats in the Vice President's statement that the University will pursue charges and disciplinary actions, as it is not clear against whom they will be directed. The actions by Binghamton College Republicans and Turning Point are part of a much larger attempt to generate conflicts and disruptions on college campuses nationwide, as preparation of a very contested presidential election in Fall 2020.

We believe that freedom of speech should be respected from all sources, especially those one does not agree with. More importantly, one should not fall into the trap of disrupting an opponent's speech thereby giving them the excuse to claim to be "victims of left wing bullies" and to claim administration inaction against the provocateurs.

November 25, 2019