



Statement of Solidarity with Faculty of Information BIPOC Students

June 8th, 2020

The Master of Information Student Council (MISC) stands in solidarity with the Faculty of Information students demanding a safe space for our current and future BIPOC students.

Thank you to the Diversity Working Group, Indigenous Connections Working Group, Accessibility Interests Working Group, Museum Professionals of Colour, and the many Faculty of Information students and alumni for their impressive collaboration on these recommendations.

Their recommendations are as follows:

- A banner across all iSchool website pages that links to the iSchool's statement on the recent protests, as well as available resources for students affected such as group discussions.
- The permanent creation of BIPOC financial aid, and heightened BIPOC scholarship awareness.
- Recognition of the mental stress that this situation can cause, and provision of accommodations for students experiencing emotional distress such as: paid note taking made available for classes, encourage professors to provide extensions, and ensure lectures are recorded.
- Data from the iSchool's partnerships with other organizations (e.g., co-op) and information about whether the iSchool will be working to partner only with those that are speaking out about anti-Black racism.
- Cultural competency training for all staff to create a safer learning and community environment.
- Hiring a full-time and student-approved Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator for the iSchool so that the burden of labour no longer has to be fully performed by students who are offering their input and consultation. No longer ask the students who are vulnerable, who hold far less power than their faculty counterparts, to do the bulk of this work.

Their petition can be found here along with additional resources: <https://linktr.ee/mpoc.uoft>

We have started conversations with both our Dean and Student Services about these recommendations. We will continue to urge action based on the petition, the survey results, and from listening to students' stories. We hope that by uniting our voices MISC can help carry the weight of this battle.

In Solidarity,

The MISC Executive | misc.ischool@utoronto.ca