

Campus Update 9-13-20

Dear Residents of Garrigus,

On 9/13/2020 there was a bias related incident in Garrigus where someone said a racial slur to a member of our Garrigus community. At the University of Connecticut, we strive to create a safe and inclusive community for all students, and this type of behavior goes directly against the values we hold as a community.

A bias-related incident is an incident that negatively targets, intimidates, or threatens an individual or group due to race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical, mental, and intellectual disabilities, as well as past/present history of mental disorders. This includes, but is not limited to, graffiti or images that harass or intimidate individuals or groups due to the above characteristics.

The University of Connecticut values the freedom all members of our community have to express their opinions. It is only through such an environment that the educational values of our institution can be attained and our community can thoughtfully engage in the continual discourse that is necessary for the process of discovery and the creation of new knowledge.

While free expression is important in having productive dialogue, the University acts when harm occurs to members of our community. In January of 2015, the University developed its Bias Response Protocol to support students who experience an incident that either is or appears to be bias-related. Such incidents are addressed through UConn's Student Code of Conduct, UConn Police, or restorative conversations within the impacted community.

You are part of this residential community. As such, we ask that you assist us in preventing further incidents of this nature by following these steps:

1. Hold your peers accountable for the decisions they choose to make.
2. Maintain responsibility for your actions and the actions of any guests that you choose to bring into the community as per our guest policy.
3. Be an active bystander! If you see something like this happening, please let a staff member know. This can be your RA, Residence Hall Director, UConn Police, the Dean of

Students Office, the Office of Institutional Equity, the Office of Community Standards or the Office of Residential Life.

We hope that the person(s) responsible for this behavior will choose to make a different decision in the future. If there is anything our staff can do to assist you, please feel free to contact your RA via email or myself directly at jeffrey.benike@uconn.edu. Thank you and enjoy your weekend.

Sincerely,

Jeff Benike

Jeffrey Benike, M.S.

he.him.his

Residence Hall Director - Garrigus Suites