

Demands Response: December 6, 2021 (Initial Response Report)

Responses can be found below to the demands submitted to University administration in October 2020 by the undersigned WIU student groups. The demand responses are in progress and/or are part of an ongoing process. The reality exists that our student, faculty, and staff continue to face anti-Black sentiments, racism, harassment, and much more, and more must be done to combat this, including reviewing best practices at peer institutions that have made progress toward a more just and inclusive campus.

To Western Illinois University,

We, as Black students who attend Western Illinois University, are demanding that Western Illinois University show that #BlackLivesMatter and do not just say. We are in a multi pandemic era, where black people are at the mercy of diseases, COVID19 and anti-blackness. There is only, truly, a concern for one. On campus, we have witnessed too much racism, micro-aggressions from professors, our RA's and people who are supposed to protect and be there for us. We are tired. For too long, we have experienced too much with little to no support and **demand the following to be made immediately.**

We demand that Western Illinois University rebuild the African American Studies department by allowing students to major in African American studies, providing more funding for the program and regenerating all that was decreased, stripped, in 2018.

A committee was established in 2020 to begin the process of re-establishing major programs and/or adding new major degree programs in African American Studies, Latinx Studies, Queer Studies, Women's Studies and other under-represented groups. A study, which was completed in Summer 2021, is being finalized, with final recommendations expected

We demand that a policy in the code of conduct is created to end hate speech, which should be defined in Western Illinois University Student Code of Conduct as “

We demand that Western Illinois University hire more professors, staff, student

The Office of Public Safety currently employees three black staff members, and has been actively

The University will continue to educate, promote, and support all members of the WIU community to respect, appreciate, and support the Black community and all other members of underrepresented groups. President Huang has presented a formal request that the state allocate one million dollars to WIU to assist us in our efforts to address issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on our campus.

Signed,

Black Student Association

Black Student Summit N.A.A.C.P.

National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Incorporated

Preeminent Gentleman's Society

Preeminent Ladies Society

African Student Association

Black Male Achievement Network

Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center

Eta Eta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated

Zeta Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

Epsilon Beta Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated

House Arrest 2

Elite Beauty

DollHouse Dance

Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center Dance Troupe

G.L.A.M. Modeling

PPMT

National Association of Black Accountants

National Association of Black Journalists

Beyond Beautiful