Diversity Statement and Committee Work

Department of Law, Societies, and Justice Diversity Statement

The Department of Law, Societies, and Justice seeks to foster an engaged, participatory learning community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. We aim to be a **diverse** community, into which participants from a range of ethnic backgrounds, political opinions, genders, sexual orientations, nationalities, religions, and other identities are welcomed. We strive for **inclusivity**, where all members of our community feel valued for their contributions and are able to fully participate. And we aspire to educational **equity**, acknowledging and actively working to redress persistent and unjust barriers and provide the necessary accommodations, so that all students, faculty, and staff can fully realize our potential as scholars and practitioners of social justice.

Message from LSJ’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Earlier this year, the LSJ Department began a multi-year initiative to improve attention to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in our community. UW data shows that our student body is among the most diverse in the College of Arts and Sciences. In consultation with students from underrepresented groups, we hope to better understand their experiences in our classrooms in order to implement more inclusive pedagogical practices.

LSJ Department is proud to be a community where students, faculty, and staff engage with issues of injustice both inside and outside academic spaces. To cite just a few examples relating to criminal justice: LSJ faculty research contributed to the overturn of the death penalty in Washington state due to racial disproportionalities; LSJ faculty and students currently conduct book groups in four of state prisons; and LSJ alumni are leaders in the local and national movement for restorative justice. In the years to come, LSJ will use its communications to make our community's work for social justice more visible to current students.

We know we have room to grow. While we are proud to have a faculty with deep expertise on a wide range of inequalities within and beyond the United States, we also believe a Department of Law, Societies, and Justice should include courses focusing centrally on race, taught by a scholar with specialist training in this area. The LSJ Department has asked the College of Arts and Sciences for permission to hire a race scholar and has made this request our top hiring priority.

If you have suggestions, questions, or comments for members of the committee, feel free to reach out to the current members:

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