Student Affairs Staff Members,

In light of recent campus and national events, it is of utmost importance that you make yourself available to students. Further, I implore you to report anything of which you are aware to my office, the office of University Community and/or OUPD. Our students need to know there are places for them to go, support systems in place and services available.

Having said that, your well-being is very important to me, as is that of each of your staff members. In order to fully embrace our most important responsibility, the students, as a team, we need to be supportive and respectful of one another. Let us all be mindful of the following:

Self-Care

The election and its outcome affect everyone differently. Please allow yourself and your staff leniency and time, if needed, to self-care.

Safety & Security

Student safety is our number one priority. If students come to your office with any concerns for their safety, make sure they understand, without hesitation, to call OUPD (911) during any unsafe situation. This is directed at staff as well. If you / your staff are experiencing any kind of unsafe situation, please call 911. Further, always feel free to bring any concerns to your direct supervisor, myself or my office.

Additionally, the OU community may also report incidents to the 24-Hour Reporting Hotline at 844-428-6531, directly to the office of University Community or my office. I would appreciate my office being kept in the loop of any situations reported to you and/or situations of which you are made aware. Any information you can gather regarding their experience would be most helpful in our investigations.

Moreover, remind students of the services OU and Student Affairs provide. A list can be found on our website under “Contact Us,” then “Need Help” at: http://www.ou.edu/content/studentaffairs/contact-us/need-help-.html A few of the services are outlined below:

- SafeWalk
  - Student / staff accompaniment available to escort students on campus
  - 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. / 7 days a week / Call (405)325-WALK
  - http://www.ou.edu/police/crime/ou-safewalk.html
Belonging & Community

Anything your office can do to create an even more inviting and welcoming space is encouraged. We are all part of the OU community and each of us belong here.

My office will be hosting “Student Community Hours” in the Student Affairs Jan Marie Crawford conference room (265 OMU). There will be food, drinks, music, TV, and a computer provided, and hopefully lots of students to chat with during these blocked hours. Please find the schedule on our Student Affairs website: www.studentaffairs.ou.edu.

Respect & Tolerance

I ask each of you to be respectful, professional and courteous in all matters pertaining to your work environment. Although we all have ideological differences, let it not interfere with our goals as a division and as an employee of our University. Further, in our positions, sometimes the best action and support we can give is to actively listen.

Want to do more?

- Volunteer to work SafeWalk shifts
- South Oval Staff-Outs
- Union / South Oval tabling
- Become an LGBTQ Ally:
  - http://www.ou.edu/content/gec/lgbtq-programs.html
- Become a part of the OU Advocates (Graduate Assistants and Full-Time Staff) team:
  - http://www.ou.edu/content/gec/advocacy.html
- Create a welcoming and inviting space in your department or your specific office.
- Post the 24-Hour Reporting Hotline and affirming statements on your department’s social media and website.

Contact Student Affairs at (405)325-3161 for more information.

Remember, we are a team working towards the same goal. You are all vital employees to The University of Oklahoma, here to provide a significant piece of the collegiate experience, and are working towards an end goal, something larger than any of us individually.

If you have not already, I would appreciate if each of you would reach out to / check-in with your staff and students reminding them of these points. Each of you continue to impress me with your work ethic and leadership in your department. To say I am proud and appreciative of our team and the services we provide, is a complete understatement.
In closing, University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren released the following statement this morning.

It is vitally important at this moment for the university community to reaffirm our commitment to our core values and to work together in unity to defend them. One of those values is to recognize that diversity is a source of our strength for our university community. Above all a university must be a community of learners where we love and respect each other even if we have differing opinions. This is the time when we need to reach out and express our love and concern for each other. Every student at this university is valued as a person. There will never be a place at this university for expressions of hate and bigotry. As President of this university such inhumane conduct will not be tolerated by me. It should not be tolerated anywhere in America. Cases of hate speech or threats to members of our community should be reported immediately to OUPD or the office of Equal Opportunity. You can also report to the 24/7 Reporting Hotline, 844-428-6531. OU is not a perfect place, but we will unite against these injustices whenever and wherever we encounter them. I want to thank all students, faculty and staff for standing up for these values.

If I can be a listening ear for you, or assist you with anything, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Clarke Stroud
University Vice President for Student Affairs
and Dean of Students