May 7, 2021

Dear URI LGBTQ+ Community Union, CELS Seeds of Success Leadership Team, Feminists at URI, and URI Sexuality and Gender Alliance:

Thank you for your heartfelt letter. We understand the frustration and disappointment expressed in your message. We are committed to doing more to support our transgender and non-binary students.

The senior leadership team and other colleagues across campus are discussing the concerns you have identified. We will carefully examine the issues you raised and use the information you provided to work toward continuous improvement for our community members.

In the next few weeks, we will send you a more comprehensive response, outlining our progress, and reaffirming our commitment as a university community to address the issues you have so cogently identified. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to inform our next steps and craft a more complete response including action items.

As we noted in a recent message to the campus community, we will refocus our efforts to more emphatically emphasize the importance and value of our trans, nonbinary students and community members to a thriving, diverse, inclusive, and dynamic university.

Our trans and nonbinary community deserves love, support, affirmation, and respect from all of us. One of our goals at the University is to be representative of the people of our country, and this requires us to become more inclusive and diverse.

With your strong voices and in collaboration with you, we will continue to work to make this a more welcoming community for trans, nonbinary and all of our students. We will work against all forms of oppression at URI. It is only together that we are truly Rhody strong.

David M. Dooley, Ph.D.
President

Donald H. DeHayes
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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