

From: Romina B. Gamarra
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2020 3:37 PM
To: Rev. Scott R. Pilarz S.J. <scott.pilarz@scranton.edu>
Subject: BLM, and Allegations

Scott R. Pilarz,

My name is Romina Gamarra, and I am an upcoming sophomore at the University of Scranton studying Environmental Science. I am writing this email regarding the "allegations" against [REDACTED]. By no means I am trying to cause any problem, but as a person who stands up for my rights and other people's rights, I believe I have the right to speak up and stand up for what I believe is necessary.

As you probably know by now (due to the Email we received yesterday, June 4th), [REDACTED] a student at the University, posted a picture of herself on Instagram where she painted her face and made a very racist, offensive comment that was completely out of place and very disrespectful.

In the previous email you sent, you mentioned that you are aware of these "allegations" concerning current student. Thus, I took the time to look up the definition of this word. An allegation is "a claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong, typically one made without proof". This had me and many other students thinking. I am not sure if you have seen the picture, but I decided to attach it here. I believe that it should be enough proof for you and everyone else who is in charge at the University of Scranton.

Although I understand that you cannot "discuss the behavior of individual students", I hope you also understand that this is wrong and that something has to be done. This type of behavior should be completely unacceptable because of "who we are as a Catholic and Jesuit university".

The entire black community is going through a very difficult time right now. I am hispanic, and although I do not fully understand what they go through every day, I understand and know what it feels like to be judged by your background, ethnicity and culture. I also understand what it feels like to be a victim of racism, and NO ONE deserves that. Now more than ever we should be standing up for their rights and supporting them in this fight. We CANNOT let students spew racist hatred comments with impunity. Please, tell me, how is allowing this type of behavior any fair for the black community? And how do you think they might feel when the University they pay so much money to attend to is allowing and tolerating this?

This was not an allegation, this was a racist comment and there is more than enough proof to prove this. And this should not be tolerated. People no longer feel comfortable attending to the University if these things are allowed and no one is doing anything. The faculty has the power to do the right thing and make a change, and we all hope you do so.

I am hoping we can all together be the change we want to see. I hope the faculty makes the right decision and listens to the students and their thoughts during this difficult time. I speak on behalf of many other students who's voices are not heard, and students who are too scared to speak up. I am more than happy to discuss this in person any time. I believe the right thing to do is to stand up for the things you believe and actually make a difference. I love the University of Scranton and I am very thankful for the opportunities I have as a student, but if the day of tomorrow someone makes a racist comment towards me or the whole Latino community, I would want someone to stand up for it, and I would like for that person to have the punishment they deserve.

Again, I will be more than happy to discuss this in person when we go back to campus. Hoping you and your family are healthy and safe during these difficult times.

Thank you so much,

Romina Gamarra