



# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT UNIT CHANGE TEAM NEWSLETTER

Term: Fall 2020 | Issue 3 | December 2020

## WHO ARE WE?

*The Academic Affairs unit change team supports staff that report to the EVCAA.*

You can always [share your concerns, questions, and suggestions](#) with the team.

### Current Members:

Admissions: Marti Fasteland

Bulldog Resource Center: Monte Gomke

Financial Aid & Scholarships: Nancy Carl

Institutional Research: Irina Bezroukova

International Programs & Services: Kimberly Hurst

Library: Kate Conerton



## WHAT IS A UNIT CHANGE TEAM?

Unit change teams were formed to support UMD's [Goal 2](#): to "advance equity, diversity, inclusiveness, and social justice within the campus community." Each team focuses on issues and practices within their unit as part of UMD's shared work towards a campus which is more just, more equitable, more diverse, and more inclusive.

The unit change teams are one part of UMD's [Campus Climate](#) initiatives.

## CAMPUS CLIMATE AND COVID-19

The pandemic has brought major changes to what it's like to work and study at UMD. It has affected the way we do our work - where we do our work, what precautions we take, how and when we collaborate with others. For many employees, our workloads and what work we prioritize have also shifted.

If you have ideas about how to make UMD more welcoming and supportive, concerns about current campus climate, or anything else you would like to share, you can [contact the Academic Affairs unit change team](#) or email the overarching UMD Campus Climate Change Team at [uchange@d.umn.edu](mailto:uchange@d.umn.edu)

## REPORT A CONCERN

You don't need to figure out which university office handles a specific problem in order to report it!

You can report potential misconduct **anonymously online** or by calling 1-866-294-8680.

[Learn more about reporting anonymously](#)

## IT'S MORE THAN THAT!

It's More Than That campaign focuses on the complexities of certain concepts, ideas and experiences. Often we don't quite understand the full story or someone's reality. Through this campaign, we invite you to explore topics of diversity, inclusion, bullying, and more!

[Take the Pledge](#)

[Listen to the Podcast](#)



## UPCOMING BOOK CLUB

AASUCT will be hosting a book club this spring. We hope this will provide an opportunity for personal development as well as a chance to build community and encourage dialog within Academic Affairs. Personal growth and development play a role in improving campus climate; our personal awareness can impact students, faculty, staff, and others as much as advancements in the University policies, protocols, and practices do.

This spring we will read [HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST](#) by Ibram Kendi. Participants will be provided with a copy.

We'll share more information and an invitation to join the book club in February 2021.

*Copies of HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST are also available in several formats at both [Kathryn A. Martin Library](#) and [Duluth Public Library](#).*

*To suggest a future book, please [use this form](#) or contact any member of the AASUCT.*

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNIT HIGHLIGHT

*Here we highlight campus climate initiatives from departments.*

Interested in a way to bring more climate conversations into your department? The Office of Financial Aid staff listen to each [It's More Than That podcast](#) episode and discuss one at their monthly meetings.

## CAMPUS CLIMATE NEWS & EVENTS

### Upcoming Campus Events:

[DanceWorks 2020 \(virtual\)](#)  
[Influencing Disability Inclusion Online Training \(open\)](#)  
[Online Stress Busters \(Mondays through 1/11\)](#)

[Annual Summit on Equity, Race and Ethnicity in early March.](#)

### Upcoming Community Events:

[CSS Alworth Center for Peace and Justice Presentations](#)

*Do you have an event to highlight? [Reach out](#) to have it included in our [Spring newsletter](#).*