

Lessons from Ferguson & #OccupySLU



Dr. Jonathan C. Smith
Special Assistant to the President
for Diversity & Community Engagement



Timeline

- July 1 First lay president of SLU starts job
- August 9 Death of Mike Brown
- August 20 Fall Welcome Week
- August 25 Classes Begin
- October 9 Death of Vonderrit Myers, Jr.
- October 10-13 #Ferguson October
- October 13-18 #occupySLU / Midterm Exams
- October 18 The Clock Tower Accords



Adversaries, Stakeholders, Partners

- University Community
Board, Administrators, Faculty, Students, Staff, Alumni
- Community
Activists, Neighbors, (University Community)
- Media
Mainstream, New technologies
- Civic
Government



- navigation
- negotiation
- collaboration
- The Clocktower Accords



The Clocktower Accords

1. Increased budget for African American Studies program.
2. Increased financial aid resources for retention of African American students at SLU.
3. Evaluation of SLU's current scholarship programs to better serve African American Students.
4. Additional college prep workshops for students in the area's most disadvantaged school districts.
5. Establishment of a K-12 bridge program, including summer programs, in the Normandy and Shaw neighborhoods to help increase the numbers of college-bound students from neighborhoods in those areas.
6. Establishment of a community center.
7. Mutually agreed upon commissioned artwork.
8. Development of an academic Center for Community and Economic Development.
9. Creation of a race, poverty, and inequality steering committee.
10. SLU sponsorship of a national conference on racial equality.
11. Appointment of a Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Community Empowerment.
12. Establishment of diversity speaker series.
13. Bi-weekly meetings with an inclusive group, including the president, to continue to advance the University's efforts to address inequality and poverty in our community.



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Office of the President

October 20, 2014

After mutually respectful discussions, grounded in trust and with a shared commitment to addressing racial inequality and poverty in our community, Tribe-X, the Metro St. Louis Coalition for Inclusion and Equity (M-SLICE), and Saint Louis University will support the following actions to help further this aim and, at the same time, permanently end the encampment on the SLU campus by 2:30 p.m., Saturday, October 18, 2014.

Consistent with SLU's Catholic, Jesuit values, and as articulated by President Pestello in his Inaugural address, these actions will focus on inequity and poverty in our community, and will further support collaboration and dialogue to advance these efforts.

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As part of this agreement, Saint Louis University, Tribe-X and M-SLICE agree to positive dialogue with and about each other going forward.

This agreement was predicated on the removal of the encampment and its occupants no later than 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2014. The University agreed to provide logistical assistance, as requested, for the peaceful removal of the encampment.



- Mission
- Risk
- Collaboration



Photo by Michelle Peltier