# Diversity and Ethics Statement

To: Chair, Diversity and Ethics Committee

From: Leo Newton

Date: 03/15/24

Subject: Statement to the Diversity and Ethics Committee

## Part 1: Background and Perspective

As a sociology major, I have a deep interest in understanding the complex historical, cultural, and social factors that shape human behavior within diverse societies. Through my coursework, I have gained a broad understanding of how power dynamics and social structures contribute to the perpetuation of inequality and injustice. This perspective allows me to recognize the ways in which prejudicial and discriminatory practices may manifest themselves in institutional systems and processes, as well as in everyday interpersonal interactions. As a committed advocate for social justice, equity, and inclusivity, I believe that these insights would be an asset to the Committee in its mission to create supportive and nondiscriminatory educational environments for all students.

As a veteran, I have been exposed to a wide range of perspectives and experiences, both during my military service and in my interactions with other veterans. Serving my country allowed me to work closely with individuals from a variety of backgrounds, each with their unique experiences and perspectives. For instance, while stationed in the Middle East, I had the opportunity to engage with locals and learn about their culture, history, and beliefs. This exposure to diverse viewpoints enabled me to develop a nuanced understanding of the complex issues at play in that region, and to make more informed decisions when faced with ethical dilemmas. Additionally, collaborating with and supporting my fellow soldiers throughout my military career required me to appreciate and adapt to their unique communication styles, strengths, and weaknesses. My experiences as a veteran have taught me the value of seeking out diverse perspectives, as they often offer invaluable insights into the intricate nature of various issues and scenarios.

## Part 2: Scenario Response

Review the scenario described in the assessment preparation. Then, write two paragraphs with the content described below.

Upon receiving the concerns of the three female students, I would begin by acknowledging their experiences and the challenges they face in balancing their roles as students and parents. I would also communicate that I take their concerns seriously and am committed to finding a fair and equitable solution. To fully understand the issue's extent, I would gather additional information from a wider range of students with children and other parents to identify varying perspectives on this matter. In doing so, I would be embracing the principles of sociocultural awareness and understanding that diverse perspectives can offer valuable insights. Furthermore, I would examine the existing academic policy regarding missed classes, considering the broader context in which the university operates and its overall commitment to promoting inclusive and supportive environments for all students.

In my role on the Diversity and Ethics Committee, I would strive to raise awareness and communicate the importance of considering diverse and ethical perspectives when crafting or implementing university policies. This could be achieved through various means, such as organizing workshops or seminars focused on exploring the benefits of sociocultural awareness and understanding, and facilitating open and honest discussions among faculty, staff, and students. Additionally, I would work closely with university leadership to promote a culture of inclusivity, equity, and compassion, ensuring that the voices of all students are heard and acknowledged. By actively embracing the principles of diversity and ethical decision-making, we can create an institution that is not only more equitable, but also more successful in fulfilling its mission to educate and empower the next generation of leaders.