

JANUARY 12, 2014 ... FAMILY MEETING WITH SLCC STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES

I wanted to gather you all together this morning for a SLCC family meeting. Upon arriving at my office Monday morning, February 10, 2014 I was informed that the previous Thursday a 2011 SLCC graduate had been arrested on charges of sodomy. I watched the media sources very carefully to determine if this information had been made public. Through an attorney and college trustee, with the guidance of Cindy Bingham, SLCC registrar and campus FERPA expert, a statement was prepared for release. This is the statement. "Brandon Milburn attended SLCC from 2005 – 2007, receiving an Associate's degree, and then from 2009 – 2011, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in 2011. We trust the Missouri legal system to resolve the issues surrounding the case." From there a simple response was prepared, "Because of privacy and confidentiality provisions of the law, we are unable to comment further." At 4:00pm on Tuesday afternoon I received a phone call from channel 4 news in Saint Louis and provided them with this statement. At that time we knew the media storm was about to begin. Some of you were on campus at about 7:00 pm last night and experienced what that meant. One of our students, David, did a good job addressing the channel 5 news team. I am proud of David.

Sometimes you have a nightmare and awaken only to realize it was a nightmare. Then there are times you have a nightmare and awaken to realize it is reality. This issue is very real and very serious.

1. The presumption of innocence is granted to the graduate until he is proven guilty. Pray for him and his family. Some of our SLCC faculty and friends have visited with him.
2. Please pray for any possible victims and their families. These are very real times of pain that often last a lifetime.
3. Please pray for our brothers and sisters at First Christian Church / Florissant. This church has a very good relationship with SLCC. Just as we never solicited all this attention, neither did FCCF. I have been in contact with the executive minister at FCCF.
4. Please pray for the authorities as they investigate these allegations. SLCC will be completely open to the police and cooperate completely as the investigation continues.
5. Please pray for the SLCC family: alumni, friends, students, trustees, faculty, administrators, and staff.
6. One of our SLCC students simply wrote on her facebook: our God reigns. REMEMBER THAT! God reigns! Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." God works for good. We love Him. We have been called for His purpose.

SLCC exists for you as students. We are here for students.

1. I am asking our faculty to eat in the cafeteria today – Friday and sit with students. Feel free to talk about any of these issues with faculty. As students you are not walking through this alone.
2. I am asking Saint Louis area ministers to be on campus next week during lunch to talk to you if you have the need.
3. Other opportunities may be made available to meet your needs during these difficult times. Always feel free to visit with Dean of Students, Chris Cable, for wise counsel.
4. Resident Assistants in the dorms have been contacted by Dorm Parents to seek every opportunity to discuss these issues with fellow students.

Here are some other ideas for your consideration:

1. Media, the media is a reality in situations like this. If you are contacted by the media be polite. Please refer them to the President's office from 8:30am – 4:30pm. We would be happy to talk to them. They can contact the President's office at 314-837-6777. We have already talked to one television station and suspect others will make contact with us.
2. In regard to the media this is not a time to solicit media attention.
3. Be careful as to what you put on Facebook. This is a serious issue. It is not a time for humor, it is not a time to make comments that might be derogatory to any person or groups of people. This is a time of prayer, encouragement, and coming together as a family.
4. In regard to the police. SLCC has always had a good relationship with the police department and appreciate the way they patrol and protect our campus. We will cooperate completely with the police department. If you need to report anything to the police department regarding this case we encourage you to call 314-889-2341. Please note that telephone number. If you have anything to report we encourage you to contact the police department immediately.

At this time our Dean of Students, Chris Cable, will address you as well as our Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Mike Chambers. Following their comments we will gather in groups of three for prayer. I will remain at the front of the auditorium if you would like to talk to me.

May God bless each of you,
Dr. Guthrie Veech, President