

# Faculty Seeks Improvement on Diversity Support and Edu.

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By Jenna Ike - Originally Published 11/2018

Faculty members at Georgia Gwinnett College claim that while GGC advocates for diversity, there are improvements that can be made in its institutional support.

As one of the most ethnically diverse colleges in the South, part of the mission of GGC is a commitment to supporting a diverse student body.

“Within our mission is a commitment to ensure all our students develop into the contributing citizens and future leaders we know that they are capable of being,” said Jason Delaney, Assistant Dean of Student Services in the School of Business.

While students and faculty alike support diversity, faculty members claim that institutional diversity support is an ongoing process and requires more funding than currently available.

“Would I like to do more? Absolutely. But that requires additional resources,” stated Dr. Lakiesha Rawlinson, Director of Student Involvement and the Student Center.

“Do I think that we have fulfilled our mission of getting the optimal approach to diversity and equity on campus? Of course not. The work will continue to be ongoing because it is always the case that there are improvements to be made,” affirmed Delaney.

Rawlinson added that she wanted GGC to offer more cultural awareness programs and diversity training for students. She also stated that she would like to include more cultural celebrations for all groups represented at the college.

While Rawlinson focused on institutional-wide changes, Delaney emphasized individual care in addition to broader support.

“If you have a program that is a large, systematic change, it is inevitable that it is going to ignore the peculiarities of individual experience,” said Delaney, “Similarly, if all you have is individual care, you would be able to provide a much lower level of care to much fewer people, because of how expensive it is.”

The Office of Student Involvement and Office of Diversity and Equity Compliance both ensure that diversity on campus is visibly supported as they plan for future changes. Within the School Of Business, a student advisory board informs administrators of potential problems on campus. Student-run clubs like the Black Student Association and Organization of Latin American Students also serve minority students.

“I believe the student body at our core strives for the same goal— Representation and awareness,” said Derrick Russell, Student Event Coordinator for the BSA.

Work on diversity support and education will continue for the foreseeable future. “That work is not finished until we model for society was a transformation would look like. That is the work that we are committed to,” commented Delaney.