



# ASC & STUDENT LIFE STATEMENT/APOLOGY

## Statement from Ambrose Student Council **President Lauren Schmitke** and Director of Social Justice **Amy Bourque**

As a Council, we would like to take the time to acknowledge we have invited speakers to come and speak to our student body who have caused harm and offense with the words that they have spoken. In response to this happening, we are actively working to form strong expectations and accountability measures regarding the process of facilitating externally related speakers to encourage and maintain Ambrose University's commitments to foster inclusivity and dismantle systemic racism.

In February 2021, a guest speaker at The Well event denied the existence of systemic racism and caused severe harm to those who were in attendance. We want to make it explicitly clear that these are not the views that Ambrose Student Council wants to endorse. In a public statement issued by Ambrose University in the summer of 2020, our institution acknowledges the existence of systemic racism and its commitment to working to dismantle systems of oppression within our own system. We want to acknowledge the harm that was caused as a result of the statements made by the past guest speaker and send a sincere apology to those who have been denigrated. Ambrose Student Council is committed to increasing the degree of safety, inclusivity, and diversity that all Ambrose students have a right to. In our effort to grow, learn, and become allies for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, we acknowledge our mistakes and are working to create better policy and practice. To further this effort, ASC has created a new policy in our bylaws that will ensure a proper and thorough vetting process for guest speakers that align with the views and beliefs of the institution. This policy can be found on the ASC website.

## Statement from **Monique Verhoef** in Student Life

Ambrose University is committed to creating a hospitable and welcoming learning environment for all member of the community. Ambrose does take racism seriously and as an institution has stated that we stand with those who have experienced racism and will do all we can to combat systemic injustice. The event that took place in February caused some members of the community to feel as though Ambrose did not support their lived experience of systemic racism. This speaker's views dismissed the ways that bias and prejudice build systems that hurt and oppress. We are sorry that an event like this one caused harm and we are committed to doing what we can to support students and to dismantle bias, prejudice, and systemic injustice.

We are committed to supporting students who have experienced racialized incidents or bias on the campus and will follow up on complaints. If you have ever felt unsafe or experienced racism and/or discrimination while on campus or at an Ambrose related event, you can fill out an incident report here: <https://ambrose.edu/incident-report-form>. We would value hearing students experience on campus and would welcome meeting with you even if you don't have an incident to report. Together we can foster a safe, inclusive, hospitable campus that fosters belonging.

## CONNECT WITH US



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Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Contact Us](#) →



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