

Case Study Activism on Campus

Scenario:

Student activists on campus are becoming increasingly restless. The President is hearing from reliable sources that campus-wide protests are planned. There is even talk of potential violence that is being encouraged by outsiders who have come to campus to organize the activists under the guise of free speech and freedom of assembly.

The President has sought advice from his senior staff and from student and faculty leaders on campus. The public safety department is on high alert and is in communication with local law enforcement and first responders. Crisis communication plans are being developed with the Vice President for Strategic Communications.

The Vice President for Student Life is meeting with student groups in an effort to maintain calm on the campus. The major issues for the activists center on perceived unfair treatment of students based on race. Women activists are also agitated about several sexual assaults that have occurred on campus with little apparent effort by the administration to resolve the issues in a satisfactory way.

Questions to consider:

At what point should the board, or at least the board leadership be brought into conversations on this topic?

What support could/should the Board offer the President?