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Diverse Cal Poly Group Gathers to Discuss Alleged Vandalism, Hate Crimes in Cambria

SAN LUIS OBISPO – A group of Cal Poly faculty, staff and students met informally today on campus to discuss the recent alleged vandalism and hate crimes committed last week in Cambria.

As reported in the media, anti-gay slurs were spray-painted on a Cambria house three times in one week, making it possibly the community's first hate crime in recent memory, according to Sheriff's Department officials.

The discussion group was organized by Cal Poly's Pride Center, which aims to raise awareness about issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Nearly 40 people attended the informal gathering to talk about how the incident affected them and how they might show support to the victim and the community of Cambria.

Attendees included Cornel Morton, vice president for Student Affairs; Jean DeCosta, dean of students; David Conn, associate vice president of the Office of Inclusive Excellence, as well as staff members of Student Life and Leadership, Counseling Services, University Housing and the Multicultural Center.

Although President Jeffrey D. Armstrong was out of town and could not attend, he shared some thoughts in a letter he had written to the campus community. The letter expressed how "terribly disheartened" he was "by the vandalism and the slurs," yet went on to say "I'm especially heartened by what you're doing now – coming together in support of each other and in support of those who are the targets of hateful, deplorable acts. What you're doing today is a splendid example of living up to our core values as members of the Cal Poly community."

Armstrong cited the Committee on University Citizenship and that group's Statement on Commitment to Community, saying that Cal Poly's ability to provide a rich learning experience depends, in part, "on each of us choosing to act with integrity, to show respect for one another, to demonstrate concern for the well-being of others and to promote the benefits of diversity by practicing and advocating openness, respect and fairness."

Discussion also included ways to ensure that everyone at Cal Poly has a voice and that the campus is an all-inclusive, welcoming and safe environment for everyone.

The Cal Poly Pride Center will be publishing on its website statements from the attendees. To see the comments, go to

<http://studentlife.calpoly.edu/pride/>.

[Read President Armstrong's remarks in their entirety.](#)

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