



TO: Presidents, U. T. Institutions

FROM: The U. T. System Student Advisory Council Racial Justice Committee

DATE: May 18, 2021

RE: Requiring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training for all U. T. System Students

The U. T. System Student Advisory Council recognizes the importance of fostering a safe and inclusive learning community for students of all identities and backgrounds. To achieve this goal, direct action must be taken to teach students the core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

While efforts to expand DEI have occurred in various ways across U. T. System institutions, it is imperative for students to have a baseline of knowledge on the subject. Similar to alcohol education and sexual assault prevention, DEI efforts should be at the forefront of proactive measures we take to ensure the safety and success of students.

Thus, the Council recommends that, at a minimum, each U. T. institution requires every incoming student to complete the DEI training module offered by EverFi, which is currently available to all U. T. institutions under a Systemwide master agreement.

A commitment to DEI should include a wide range of efforts, and a well-developed training program for students is an integral part of such efforts. Exposure to a one-time training for all students is the minimum; we suggest that institutions build on this knowledge by offering continued training sessions, connecting students with existing support offices, and ensuring that available resources are easily accessible.

Thank you for your consideration.