

## Open Forum Minutes

Received a letter from faculty and staff, signed by about 70 members stating that they support the students in their efforts towards inclusivity and diversity. Support the ban of YikYak.

Jazmine: had a meeting with Dean O'Connell and President Fox regarding the YikYak ban. We're going to have two separate discussions: how the ban is going to be enacted, and then we will vote to either move forward with this plan, alter the plan a little, or come up with a new proposal

Angus McQueen (Chief Information Officer): technical implications of the motion that's been made:

- College has a single device that passes all the network traffic
- In the process of processing traffic, it looks for obvious signs of malware/viruses
- Is at 95% capacity right now, which is why WiFi is faulty at times
- Have spoken to the company to see how to implement
- This device will have to pay even more attention to the processes, and the way it will have to monitor the app differently -- device also has to watch out for apps that YikYak relies on (such as Google Maps) and the actual Google Maps app
- Company has said that the device can do this, but until it learns to do it efficiently, some YikYak information may get through, but some other apps may get blocked
- This will also place a lot more burden on the device, don't know how much this will slow the processes

President Fox: This affects every student in the institution, including Murphy Deming, Roanoke, or Richmond. This affects all campuses and regional offices.

McQueen: The machine doesn't know whether people have YikYak or not; it is still going to be slow. All traffic will continue to be examined the same way.

Qadira Muhammed: So, everything would potentially be slowed down?

McQueen: It will not speed up, for sure

MariCruz: When was the last time something like this was blocked, and how difficult was it then?

McQueen: Not to my knowledge

Jazmine: Is this just the type of network we have? Is there a way to upgrade?

McQueen: Yes. One of the goals for the strategic plan is to improve the network. One of

the things to take into account is that if this is what the college wants to do, we have to take that into account. We are attempting to make the best of what we have.

Jazmine: What is the timeline for the planned upgrade?

McQueen: Plan was to have a proposal by June. Upgrades will then slowly and gradually take place in parts.

Reetu Sinha: Is there a precedent for doing something like this in our school or other schools?

P. Fox: Personally feel sorry for any individual who has felt hurt from comments on this app. We, as fac/staff, are inclined your motions. We have to look into whether there are any legal ramifications to this (there are not, because we are a private college) and the technological ramifications. About 12-15 institutions have looked into this, and a number of them have banned the app. This will be a symbolic ban, but we have to create a community where we talk about issues we have. To me, this is a systemic approach. It is only fair to say that we don't really know the technological implications of this, so we wanted to respectfully inform you of this.

MariCruz: An option was brought up that we should let YikYak know that we have minors on campus, and whether they can block it?

P. Fox: I would certainly try, but YikYak has never granted that to a college or university. Some other things we can do that is symbolic is that we can block the YikYak web page (but this doesn't stop it on your phones). Another suggestion is that we can enhance the sign-in page that comes up at each stage of login, which includes statements about

McQueen: If Yikyak geofences an area, it would be entirely within that company's discretion.

Jazmine: If you were to enhance the login page and we are not able to block the app or get the company to geofence the area, is there any way to find out who is getting on YikYak?

McQueen: We do not have the capacity to do such at this time.

Three things that you would be voting on are:

To approve the proposal

To alter the proposal

To come up with a whole new solution to the problem

Shari Moody: motion to vote on the proposal

President Fox: what are some next steps we can take?

- In the last week of January, we will ask you to take a Campus Climate Survey. This is a robust survey that has distinct sections that addresses various kinds of intergroup dynamics, racial tensions, campus learning climates, etc. We will get the results as soon

as you take that, and then we will be given the national norms so that we can place our results against those. This is for students.

- We are also looking into what we can do for fac/staff that will give us important baseline information.
- We would like to bring back a group called the President's Council on Inclusive Community. This group came up with the Inclusivity statement, and in January, we will reconstitute this group that will have representation from the Board of Trustees, fac/staff, and students. We need to have a series of such robust dialogue. We have good networks, and we are all reaching out to bring people to this campus to help us with this dialogue.
- Please let us know if you have comments and questions and other suggestions.

Jazmine: What kind of projects would the council be working on?

P. Fox: We would make the results of the survey widely available, and we will revisit our practices towards diversity and inclusivity and look at diversifying fac/staff.

Johanna Bingham: Is there anything that can be implemented in the first year program?

P. Fox: I would certainly think so, but cannot speak specifically.

Lisa Wells: BOLD was redesigned last year with career goals in mind, but this redesign could certainly be implemented.

P. Fox: We have a lot of strength to work with.

Results of the vote: Majority to alter the proposal that is already made.

A committee will be formed and action will be taken.

Constituent Concerns: none

Announcements:

- Faith: BCM will be having the last Bible Study meeting of the semester
- Neneh Sheriff: tonight BPB is having the reaping for the Hunger Games movie at 7:30 pm.
- Lilly Parker: Spa Day is on Saturday

Motion to adjourn senate; Madeleine Stout