

***\*\*Note that these questions are in no way exhaustive, but provide a clearer image of questions and accusations often put forth. We kindly ask that you consider the narrative and intentionality of your questioning and introspectively analyze if your questions are personal curiosity, interrogatory, or complete necessity. \*\****

## Frequently Asked Questions: Simplified for Timeliness and Efficiency

### **Why are we here? How we arrived at this crossroads? Why MSG?**

Multicultural students are best equipped to create spaces in which fellow multicultural students feel safe and accepted. Safe spaces create environments in which students can thrive. This is vital towards the success of all students on campus and to close the gap of representation and voices not considered. The current Student Senate does not advocate for students of color in part due to refusal by select members, and because of lack of understanding and empathy. That is shown through the lack of diversity within its body, but Support for Multicultural Student Government will create a space where people of color can have a voice and will have access to a government that will advocate for them at all times with their needs centered. MSG will function in an inclusive manner, instead of committees that are assigned to filter all issues, multicultural.

### **“I’m concerned with how the Multicultural Student Government will function--what is it?”**

Multicultural Student Government (MSG) will operate as a space in which multicultural students can access resources to enhance their university experience, and become better educated on the inner workings of senate and university proceedings which has a dual benefit of enriching the KU experience as well as the transparency of the general senate body and of the university. Similarly to the existing Student Senate, MSG will center equity and social justice to amplify unheard voices in order to effectively advocate for all students.

#### **What does the budget look like?**

See slideshow chart for financial breakdown.

#### **Does the OMA support this project?**

Yes.

#### **Do you have other faculty or staff that will oversee MSG?**

Yes. Office of Multicultural will allocate funding.

## **How will elections work?**

In a four prong process that takes into account popular vote, interview, community presentation.

## **“But what about ‘Separate but Equal,’...isn’t this Segregation?”**

The claim that the Multicultural Student Government will exist as a “separate but equal” entity is not only completely unfounded but an active means of erasure of the historical context of “separate but equal” practices in the United States by asserting that people of color possess or possessed the power and desire to establish oppressive structures. This accusation also dismisses the inherently unequal power structures that currently exist between underrepresented students and our current student senate because it affirms that the multicultural government would be equal to the current government, and therefore, possess as much power as the oppressive student governmental system — a lack of support is indicative of your desire to keep the imbalance of power and representation.

## **Why Support this project?**

1. Materialize your support of multicultural student’s success, wellbeing, and empowerment, where so far you have failed to do.
2. Multicultural Student Government will create a space where multicultural students can have a voice and can have access to a government that will center them and their needs.
3. Multicultural students are best equipped to create spaces in which fellow multicultural students feel safe and accepted. Safe spaces create environments in which students can thrive.
4. Demonstrates faith and trust in multicultural student’s capacity to lead, advocate and institution build.
5. Provide an avenue to improve the relationship between multicultural students and organizations and student senate.
6. Support of Multicultural Student Government will allow members of Student Senate to become better informed on racial and multicultural issues and experiences on campus that may go unnoticed by the homogenous Student Senate. After being educated on this issues, you will be better equipped to advocate for students of color and underrepresented identities at the University of Kansas.

**The Multicultural Student Government is complementary to Student Senate--both governances can exist, together. *\*You can be involved in both Senate & MSG! Whoo- hoo!\****

The current Student Senate does not advocate for students of color and that is shown through the lack of diversity within its body; Support for Multicultural Student Government will create a space where people of color can have a voice and can have access to a government that will actively advocate for them and further the necessary plans through actions of how to be a more inclusive and equitable campus through preventative structural changes. Although verbal confirmation of desire to “be more inclusive, be culturally competent, and serve all students,” has reverberated throughout Alderson Senate chambers countless times, there are a series of unfortunate events that currently suggest otherwise. As Senate reflects on their platforms from their campaign slate vowing cultural competency and senate accountability, there is a conscious point of optimism that through their support of MSG, there are active steps to trust that students with multicultural identities are capable of leading by example in part due to experience, to set the precedent of inclusivity, bettering the campus climate. By supporting Multicultural Student Government you will directly show your support for the success, wellbeing, and empowerment of students of color on this campus.

***YOU ALREADY SAID YOU WOULD SUPPORT...***

1. On November 16, 2015 you issued a statement that you would “Double the Office of Multicultural Affairs fee to increase diversity programming on campus, as well as more staff for this essential office in the community.
2. You passed resolution 2016-302 which reads “THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED the University of Kansas Student Senate issues a full declaration in support of the fifteen demands, and pledges to ensure the specific needs of multicultural students at this University are met in a timely fashion”. **This is demand 14.**
3. The leadership is in support, President Jessie S. Pringle, Vice President Zach G. George and Communications Director Isaac Bahney approved and signed resolution 2016-302.