

Campus Climate of Diversity

I'm not sure that reading the account of the Campus Cookout changed my view of the campus climate surrounding diversity. Rather, it brought to light some realities about the campus community and confirmed some of my prior perceptions. The fact that the Campus Cookout not only got off the ground in the first place, but was in fact successful, was shocking. I incorrectly thought that someone involved would point out that holding this event would be wrong before it happened. However, I have seen that the founding principles of prejudice, whether conscious or subconscious, are definitely present in several people that I have interacted with at UCSD, so the racism involved here is not completely foreign to me. The Campus Cookout was a tangible representation of prejudices that I have seen expressed by members of my UCSD community and thus was not very surprising to me, but the extent to which these prejudices were taken was.

In my experience, the campus climate has exhibited a fairly positive attitude towards diversity and inclusion, but the lack of ethnic diversity on campus has been a looming elephant in the room. We are all acutely aware of the underrepresentation of black and Hispanic students at the school especially, and there is a general resigned distaste towards this. Also, attitudes towards racism have been almost violently combative, something I admire in the students at UCSD. I have not met any people who are overtly racist, but I have seen subconscious racist attitudes expressed by fellow students who don't really seem aware that what they say and do is racist.