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BUTLER UNIVERSITY

A MESSAGE *from*  
STUDENT AFFAIRS

This week has been really difficult for many people at Butler—especially our students. Since the announcement that the Dr. Angela Davis program was being postponed, the decision, the information that was widely shared, and subsequent finger-pointing has led to hurt feelings, anger, and a mix of other strong emotions within the Butler community.

I have heard from some Black students and faculty who were hurt by the decision to postpone the event and felt like Black voices were being suppressed. Some Jewish students have said they felt unfairly blamed. Student leaders have been criticized and put under pressure. It truly breaks my heart that any student in our community would feel this way.

We always want to empower our students to get hands-on experience working together, thinking critically and creatively, and finding solutions to challenging questions. Sometimes the complexities of a situation may warrant our greater involvement and support.

I want to express my sincere apologies on behalf of the administration as we could have done a better job of managing this situation and addressing it in a more timely manner. We know that we can't undo the damage that has been done, but we can acknowledge when we must do better, and do what we believe is the right thing going forward.

In the past 24 hours, I have personally spoken to the agency representing Dr.

Davis on multiple occasions in an attempt to reschedule her program. Our administration will pay her fee, and we will work with the students in the SGA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board, and their supporting campus partners, to bring Dr. Davis to Butler this semester. We will share details of her rescheduled program as soon as they are available.

Butler University respects and values diverse perspectives on our campus, and invited speakers like Dr. Angela Davis provide us with great opportunities for learning and civil discourse as our community continues to engage in important conversations around diversity, equity and inclusion.

Sincerely,

**Frank E. Ross III, PhD**

Vice President for Student Affairs  
*pronouns: he, him, his*