



INVESTIGATION REPORT



DATE: *February 19, 2016*

FROM: *Meredith Malnar, Coordinator of New Student & Family Programs, Offices of the Dean of Student Life*
Varselles Cummings, Program Advisor, Department of Multicultural Services

TO: **Dr. Anne Reber**
Dean, Offices of the Dean of Student Life

RE: *Texas A&M University Investigation Regarding Alleged Disruptive Activity During Uplift Hampton Preparatory Campus Visit*

SUMMARY: *On February 9, 2016 University Police Department received a report from Ms. [redacted] a counselor at Uplift Hampton Preparatory (UHP), advising that racial slurs were said to a group of students and staff visiting from UHP. In addition to the police report, Ms. [redacted] and other staff from UHP visited with several Texas A&M Administrators about the incident and also reported an unusual interaction between two UHP students and a female Texas A&M student*

According to the UPD report, while walking in the area of Walton Hall towards Hullabaloo Hall, the UHP group encountered a group of Texas A&M students sitting at or near the picnic tables. [redacted] reported that there was some interaction between the UHP students and the Texas A&M students, and someone was heard saying "Go back to where you came from" and "Go to Bonfire". [redacted] also reported that she heard a female voice say "nigger", but was unable to describe who had said any of the comments.

I. INVESTIGATION REPORT

Incident Information:

First Alleged Incident:

Date of Incident: Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Time of Incident: sometime around 2:10 PM

Location of Incident: outside Sbisa Dining Center near Fish Pond

Name of Complainant: _____, counselor at Uplift Hampton Preparatory

Second Alleged Incident:

Date of Incident: Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Time of Incident: sometime just before 2:15 PM

Location of Incident: on the sidewalk outside Walton Hall near Lot 32 walking towards Hullabaloo Hall

Name of Complainant: _____, counselor at Uplift Hampton Preparatory

Third Alleged Incident:

Date of Incident: Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Time of Incident: sometime just before 2:15 PM, moments after the second incident

Location of Incident: on the sidewalk outside Walton Hall near Lot 32 walking towards Hullabaloo Hall

Name of Complainant: _____, counselor at Uplift Hampton Preparatory

Information Collected

1. A group of 60+ students and several adult chaperones and staff from Uplift Hampton Preparatory (UHP) arrived on the Texas A&M campus via bus around 1:40 PM. They unloaded at Rudder Tower and checked in at the Appelt Aggieldand Visitors Center. (pgs. B3, B7, B13, B17, B23, B27, C3)
2. After checking in, they proceeded to Hullabaloo Hall for their scheduled Residence Hall Tour, passing by Fish Pond outside of Sbisa Dining Center on the way. (pgs. B3, B8, B14, B17, B24, B27, B50, B54)

First Alleged Incident

1. As the tour group passed by Fish Pond, two female UHP students left their group and went to throw a penny into Fish Pond (pgs. B3, B17, B27)
2. While near the pond, the two UHP students were approached by a female Texas A&M student. (pgs. B3, B7, B13, B17, B23, B27). She struck up a conversation with them about their uniforms and dress code at UHP (pgs. A10, B50, B54).
3. The student is later identified by _____ as _____ who confirmed the interaction with the UHP students (pgs. A10, B51, B55)
4. _____ stated during her interview that during the conversation about acceptable dress code at UHP she said, "I asked them what about _____, and _____ . They saw my _____ and the girl said it was ok

- because it was _____ and then her friend said they weren't _____. She said she hoped I didn't think she was stupid and I said I didn't. I didn't taunt them in any way or ask them if they liked them. I didn't in any way say that.” (B51-52)
5. UHP counselor, _____, hung back with the two female students and following their interaction with _____ and the two students walked together to cross the street and catch up with the rest of the tour group (pgs. B4, B8).
 6. According to _____, the two UHP students found the interaction “weird”, “confusing” and “off putting”, but they were not too upset. (pgs. B4, B8)
 7. _____ stated during her interview that following her conversation with the UHP students that she went directly to her room in _____ (pgs. B52, B55). _____ is adjacent to Sbisa, and would only take several minutes to walk between the two locations.
 8. According to the Residence Life card swipe report, _____ did not swipe into _____ until 3:11 PM, approximately one hour after the interaction with the UHP students (pg. C8).

Second Alleged Incident

1. The UHP group crossed the street near the Underground and proceeded up the sidewalk between Walton Hall and Lot 32. (pgs. B42, B66)
2. While walking along the sidewalk near Walton Hall, the UHP group encountered a group of Texas A&M students sitting at the Walton Hall picnic tables (pgs. B4, B8, B14, B18, B24, B28, B33, B37, B42, B45, B66, B70, B74, B78, B83, B86).
3. An adult with the UHP group asked the Texas A&M students sitting at the picnic tables for directions to Hullabaloo Hall, and two Texas A&M students, _____ & _____, stood up and lead the group towards Hullabaloo (pgs. B33, B37, B66, B70).
4. As the UHP group passed by, some of the Texas A&M students sitting at the picnic tables greeted them with “Howdy” and “Hi” (pgs. B33, B37, B42, B45, B66, B70, B74, B78, B83, B86).
5. As the UHP group passed by, student _____ noticed that one of the UHP students was wearing a UT backpack. _____ made a comment regarding this observation to others sitting at the table. The Texas A&M students present had differing opinions as to whether or not the comment was said loud enough for the UHP students to hear (pgs. B34, B38, B42, B45, B66, B70, B75, B78, B83, B87).
6. As the UHP group was passing by the students at the picnic table, UHP counselor _____ reported hearing the Texas A&M students say “go back to where you came from” and “go check out bonfire.com”. (pgs. B14, B18). According to _____ this comment was heard by many of the UHP students. (pgs. B14, B18). According to the Texas A&M students, these comments were not made. (pgs. B33, B37, B43, B45).
7. According to _____, one of the UHP students stepped out of line following the comments referenced above in #5, and said “hey, you know we’re black, right?” (pgs. B14, B19) According to the Texas A&M students, they did not see or hear this occur. (pgs. B34, B67, B75, B79, B84).

Third Alleged Incident

1. According to _____, most, if not all of the students had passed, she heard the N-word called out by a female voice multiple times (pgs. B14, B18). _____ described the person saying the N-word as a female wearing a black shirt and a black hat (B19).
2. There was one female student sitting at the picnic tables wearing a cap (pg. B19). She was later identified by UPD as _____ (pgs. A1, A5).
3. All of the Texas A&M students interviewed, including _____, denied saying or hearing anyone say the N-word (pgs. B33, B37, B43, B46, B67, B70, B75, B78, B84, B87).
4. The group arrived at Hullabaloo Hall at 2:15 PM (pg. C5). _____ of UHP called UPD to report the incident at 2:20 PM (pg. A1).



Additional Notes:

1. Investigators interviewed Texas A&M student, _____, a former UHP student who met up with the group after their residence hall tour. _____ learned of the incidents second-hand and tweeted about them. Based on the timeline of events, _____ was not present when the incidents occurred and was not able to provide any first-hand information (pgs. B59-62).
2. Based on the interviews with the Texas A&M students, the students that congregate outside of Walton Hall are there on a near daily basis, with mostly the same individuals there each day, coming and going throughout the day. _____ referenced the UHP group being "just another tour group" like they see pass by frequently (pgs. B66, B70).
3. According to Justin Varghese, Residence Life Coordinator of Conference and Guest Services, who oversees the Residence Hall Tours, special tours such as the one UHP was participating in occur 3-4 times per week. Many of the groups are composed of individuals who are racially and ethnically diverse, as with the UHP group. Most of the time, these tours travel the same or similar path in front of Walton Hall that the UHP group followed. To Justin's knowledge, an incident like this has never been reported in the past (phone conversation with Justin Varghese on 2/18/16).