QWER Hacks @ UCLA
January 22nd, 2022

Accidental Activism in Academia

Charlie Stuart
(He/They)

Today

Introduce yourselves in the chat

- Name
- Pronouns
- Where You're From
- Why You're Here

Ask questions throughout in chat

Covering activism at universities

Charlie (He/They)
Computer Science Senior and TA at Drexel
Accidental Activist

If time permits, Q&A

Winona (she/her)
Prefers (good/girl)
Advocates for more peanut butter

My Background

Closeted all through high school

2013
2017

"Came Out" in college

2017

TA was bad I spoke out about it

2017

oSTEM @ Drexel

2018

Donuts with the Dean

2019

DEI Council Admin Work

2020

The Environment

Actively Violent

Passively Discriminatory

Reactive Actions

Preventative Actions

Strengthening Actions

Actively Violent

Categorized By

- Hate Crimes
- Explicit Discrimination
- Administration encouraging or defending the attackers
- Administration refusing to help victims
- Administration not doing anything at all

In Practice

Jewish Centers Vandalized with Nazi Imagery

Confederate Flags to Taunt Black Students

Minority Faculty Members Quitting

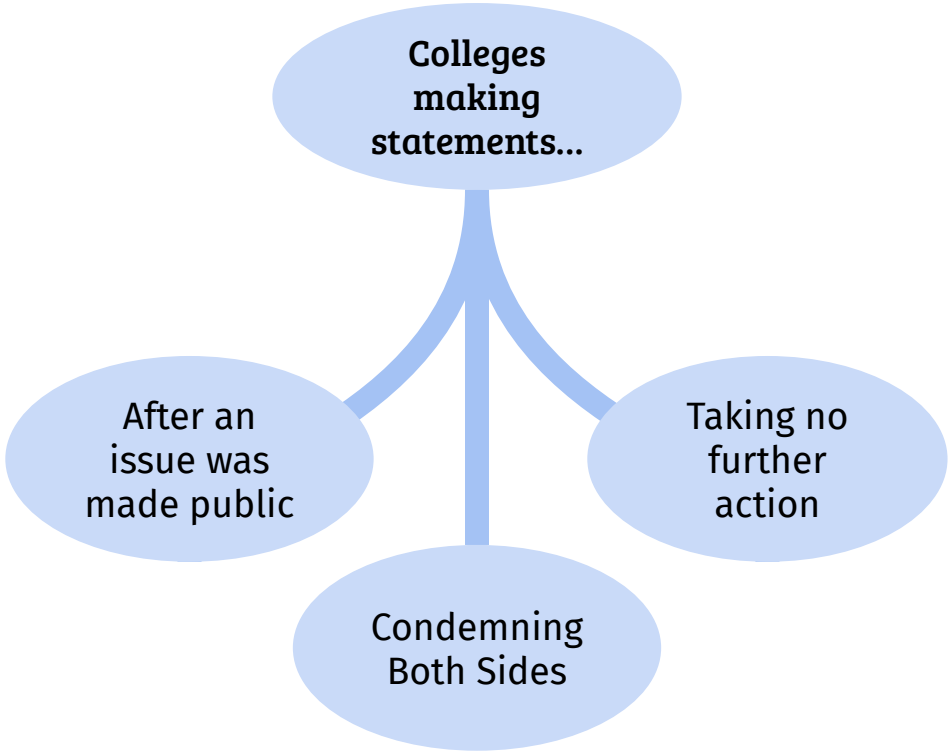
Campus Police Allowing or Encouraging Violence

Unsafe to be open about your identity

Passively Discriminatory

Categorized By

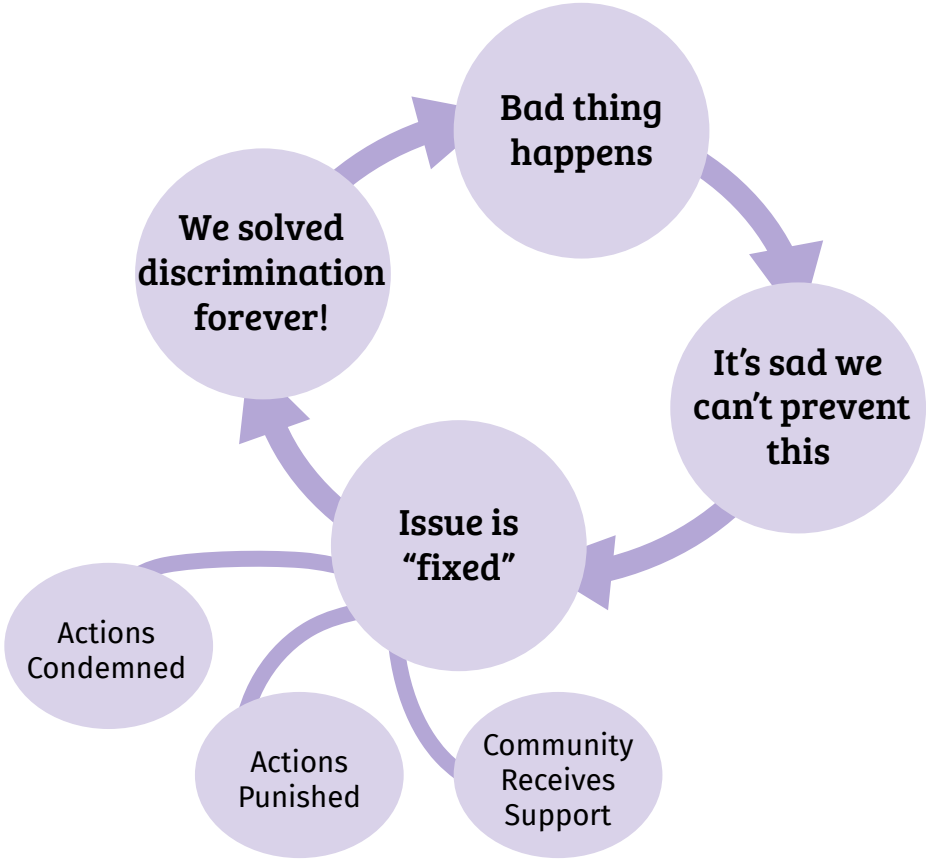
- Discrimination Prevalent
- Administration acknowledges incidents
- Optics over Reparations
- Addressed only when unavoidable



Reactive Actions

Categorized By

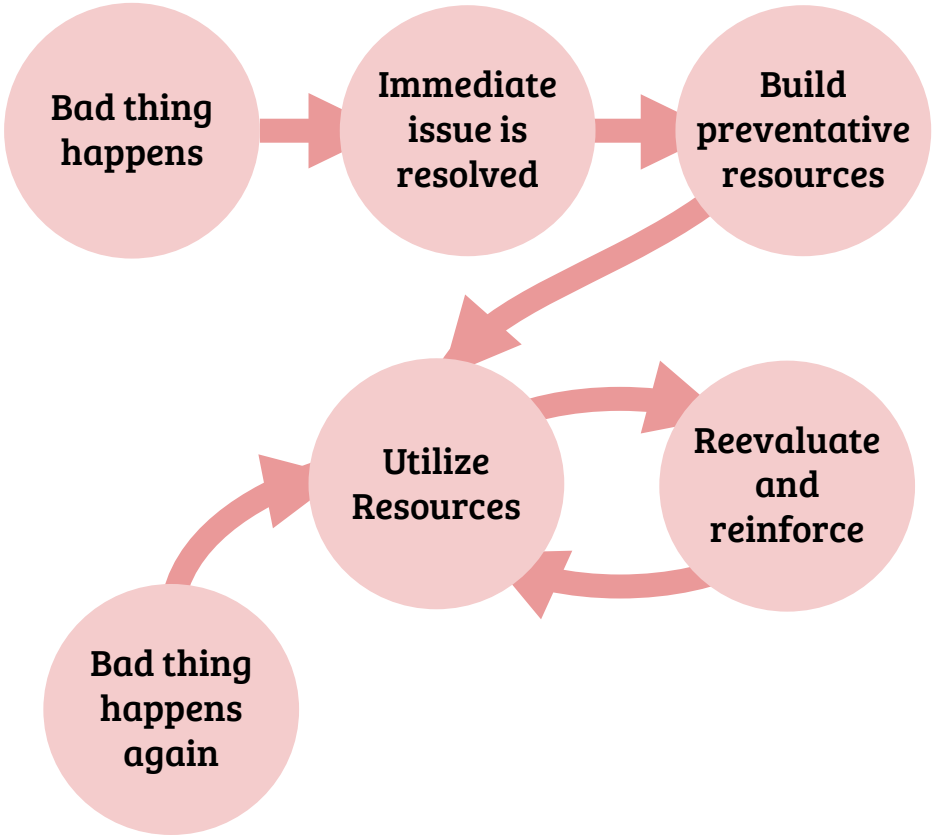
- Administration addresses incidents
- Administration takes steps to fix only the issue at hand
- Support is temporary and only what's necessary



Preventative Actions

Categorized By

- Learn from discrimination
- Why did this happen?
- What is the source?
- How can we prevent this and similar events from happening?
- What will we do if it happens again?



Strengthening Actions

Categorized By

- There are no active issues to be dealt with
- What more can we do?
- How are we continuing the conversation?
- Are marginalized groups at the table?

In Practice

Addressing systemic issues

Taking marginalized groups into account when making all decisions

Continuing community education

Now What?

Identify Chain of Command

Make Noise

Make a Formal Report

Write Emails

- Set up meetings
- Contact people, not offices
- Use their website

Identify Trusted Individuals

The Reality Is...

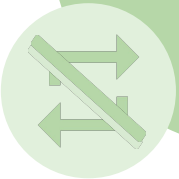
We need to do the work and its exhausting

There is a massive and supportive community here for you

Looking forward, there's so much more work that we need to do

Looking backward, we've come so far in such a short period of time

We can end destructive cycles



We can't end discrimination forever

How do we do it?
Be Loud
Be Safe
Build Community
Be Proud
Save Everything
Be Patient
Be Persistent
Self Care

Thank you for your time!

Enjoy the rest of the hackathon!

Fill out the post workshop survey

If there's time, questions?

https://charlierose.dev

Winona (she/her)
Probably crying about being alone for the past 30 mins

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