

[home](#) / [archives](#) / [article: statement from the howard university board of trustees](#)

[< Back to Newsroom](#)

# STATEMENT FROM THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

---

*March 30, 2018 / Written by Howard Newsroom Staff*

Share:  

*"While I recognize this has been a difficult week for our entire community, my fellow board members and I fully support President Frederick's continuous progress on the critical issues facing our campus community." -- Stacey J. Mobley, Esq., Chairman of the Howard University Board of Trustees*

Dear Howard University Community,

While I recognize this has been a difficult week for our entire community, my fellow board members and I fully support President Frederick's continuous progress on the critical issues facing our campus community.

Regarding the Office of Financial Aid situation, it's important to understand that President Frederick proactively launched a review of this office to ensure it was best supporting our students. All of us recognize the critical role financial aid plays in the lives of our students and it was important to us to ensure the office was operating appropriately. While the review unfortunately uncovered alarming behavior, he immediately took appropriate action and launched an internal investigation to get to the bottom of this.

In keeping with our commitment to transparency and our internal schedule, an initial report of the Office of Financial Aid's ongoing investigation will be made

available to the Howard community on April 6, 2018. Our goal has always been to conduct a thorough investigation so that the findings can be shared with this community as well as with the proper authorities so that all appropriate action can be fully pursued. We remain dedicated to completing this investigation and ensuring all necessary safe-guards are put in place to ensure something like this can never happen again on our campus.

Furthermore, we recently became aware of a list of demands by a group of students, directed to the University via social media. Even though many of the concerns are inaccurate, I want to take this time to address the issues raised.

Last year President Frederick announced the university's plan to continue to address and prevent sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination and domestic violence within the University community, with prevention being the top priority. The University has thoroughly assessed our Title IX policies and processes, gathered student, faculty and staff feedback during this process, and unveiled last year a new interim Title IX Policy on Prohibited Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment. The entire campus community (students, faculty, and staff) has been invited to provide feedback on the new policy so that this interim policy is informed by all members of our community and supports our goal of creating an environment that is free from all forms of sexual and gender-based harassment and discrimination.

This academic year alone, the Title IX Office and the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program on campus have hosted more than 100 trainings for faculty, staff and students, in addition to dozens of educational workshops and panel discussions in partnership with sororities and fraternities on campus, student government, the Office of Student Affairs, and Howard University Student

Association, to name a few. Additionally, next month Howard has plans to launch a sexual assault prevention and pledge campaign, in conjunction with students, geared toward raising awareness, provoking advocacy, and inspiring collective community action against sexual assault and other forms of interpersonal violence.

This year's winter weather crisis at the beginning of January caused an unfortunate delay in the start of classes for Spring semester and we are regretful of the impact it had on all of our students. While the University is still grappling with the damage caused to several buildings on campus, the renovation of The East Towers, will be completed this May and will be available for move-in this fall. We also remain committed to the complete modernization of all of our residence halls by 2021.

We also recognize the cost of tuition is an area of utmost importance to the entire community. With a majority of Howard students benefitting from financial assistance, we make every effort to keep tuition as affordable as possible. Howard's tuition is significantly lower than any other private school in the District and we have held our costs to be consistent with other top HBCUs and middle states peer institutions. This is a significant accomplishment considering the budget constraints facing higher education. Every effort has been made to keep the institution competitively priced while balancing the goals of being able to provide state-of-the-art resources and affordability for students.

Additionally, prior to Spring Break, many students expressed concern that they did not have their housing assignments yet. The Office of Residence Life has completed and responded to each application, ahead of the March 30th deadline. A total of 5,084 students have been assigned for housing for the next

academic year. While all Howard University first-year and second-year students under the age of 21 are required to live on campus, unless living at home with a parent or guardian, the University will make every effort to accommodate on-campus housing for upperclassmen when possible. We typically average an occupancy rate of 89% for on-campus housing and are trending accordingly for this Fall.

Lastly, it's critical to note that undergraduate and graduate students have a seat at the table to bring their input and perspective all critical issues facing our campus. The Howard University Board of Trustees includes two student members, who have full voting rights and have been elected by their peers to serve on the Board and represent student voice and interests. Student success, student safety and student well-being are top of mind in every meeting and in every decision made as we strive daily to live up to the University's motto of "Truth and Service."

In closing, I want to reassure the Howard Community that we are making positive strides to improve our operations and infrastructure, increase resources and foster a positive environment for our students, despite facing challenges. My fellow board members and I are charged with exercising final authority and responsibility for University governance. This is a purview and priority we take very seriously. We remain steadfast in our mission and progressing forward, despite any obstacles we may face. We look forward to continuing to work with our students and our entire community to achieve progress.

Excellence in Truth and Service,

Stacey J. Mobley, Esq.

Chairman, Howard University Board of Trustee

---