Dear Goucher Community,

These have been very divisive days for our country and our community, and emotions are particularly raw. I write to you today to affirm our continued commitment to our community principles of Respect, Inclusion, Communication, Service and Social Justice, and Responsibility. These principles are even more important now, as many marginalized members of our community feel unsafe and vulnerable. For many students, this was not simply about which party was elected, but about personal liberties and safety. Please be sensitive about these personal anxieties: Not everyone is ready to talk politics at the moment.

CREI and others have organized support space for affinity groups. For those who are ready, next week, on Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Hyman Forum, there will be a faculty-led discussion for our entire community of where we are now, and where we go from here. All students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to join us as we reflect and discuss.

I hope you will continue to engage with one another. The coming months and years will make it all the more essential to talk about difference and the causes and issues about which you are passionate. Now is the time to organize at every level and make your voices heard to local and national politicians. Our country and our community need to know we are here, still fully committed to each other, and that we are not going away.
We continue to be guided by our vision of an accessible and transformational education that will deliver graduates who can solve complex problems together with people not like themselves. This vision will also be tested, as we come to terms with the end of this contentious, polarizing election and the high level of disagreement in our country.

Goucher is an incredibly special place. As a community, we must continue to stand for our values of inclusiveness and respect. This will be difficult, but the true challenges to our individual and community principles are not the easy situations, they are the hard ones.

With love and respect for all of you,

José