

In Response to Dr. Marissel Hernández-Romero's Email

Mon 6/29/2020 1:16 AM

To: Office of the President <president@middlebury.edu>; Patton, Laurie L. <lpatton@middlebury.edu>; Ross, Hannah S. <hross@middlebury.edu>; Gibson, David J. <djgibson@middlebury.edu>; Moorti, Sujata <smoorti@middlebury.edu>; Menta, Vijay <vmenta@middlebury.edu>

Hello all,

We're sure you've all seen by now the email sent by Dr. Marissel Hernández-Romero in the Luso-Hispanic Studies department. The email may have been removed from our inboxes, but you can be sure that students—including ourselves—have seen it and continue to see it. Her email has already gotten a lot of coverage on a variety of social media platforms, including ones outside of the direct Middlebury community such as [@dearpwj](#).

We are contacting you because we anticipate the email being addressed during today's Student Town Hall webinar. We think it is in the best interest of the administration and the institution to acknowledge the harmful actions mentioned in the email.

People are rightfully upset at the content of the email, and its removal symbolizes the erasure of Dr. Hernández-Romero's voice and her story—did we not just promise as an institution to advance anti-racist work which includes uplifting the voices of marginalized communities that have continuously been silenced when speaking out against the College?

The Middlebury community deserves a response.

We know that President Patton will be present during today's Student Town Hall for introductory remarks. We strongly believe it is an important time to address Dr. Hernández-Romero's message and why the email was deleted. If you refuse to address it during the event, it should be addressed beforehand via a community-wide announcement.

As student leaders we want to stand in solidarity with our constituents and find ways in which we can actively take steps to support them. We view you, the administration, as the means to institute change on our campus so we want to work together to enact positive change. We are hurt by what has happened on our campus. Students are hurt. We ask again: how many times will marginalized communities have to speak out against Middlebury for action to be taken?

John Schurer '21

SGA President

Sophia Lundberg '21.5 & Roni Lezama '22

SGA Vice Presidents

Madison Holland '21

SGA Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Lizeth Lucero '21

SGA Director of Innovation & Technology

Maya Gee '22

Second Student Constituent Advisor to the College Board of Advisors