

Angel Cantu <angelcantu@u.boisestate.edu>

Big City Instagram Post

12 messages



Good morning,

If you are unaware, Big City Coffee posted this on their personal Instagram account yesterday evening. This post is extremely harmful, using a students personal social media post to diminish and devalue student voice, in order to boast their brand and their contract with Boise State. Not only is this post harmful to students, especially our BIPOC students, it is extremely inappropriate and disparaging. Fee paying students should be at the liberty for a social media smear by a company contracted with the University.

By allowing Big City to further uplift and promote the police, an institutional organization that has oppressed and marginalized BIPOC since their creation, it further inflicts harm and threatens the safety of BIPOC people across the entirety of our Boise State campus.

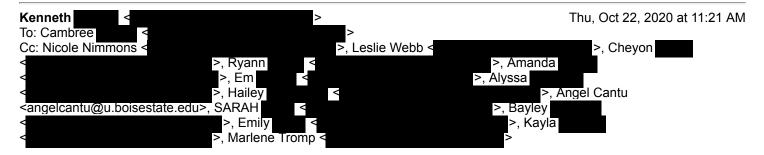
Obviously, there is a written contract with the University that Big City must abide by, is social media activity disclosed anywhere in that contract? Is this a breach of contract? How will Big City be held accountable?

The University cannot sit by and let them get away with these actions. In the University's official Statement of Diversity and Inclusion, the University commits to "the conscious and deliberate decision to continuously work towards the creation of an accepting and nurturing campus climate where similarities and differences are respected, supported, and valued by ensuring the active participation of the entire campus community". In order to uphold these values and support the BIPOC students of our campus, a change must be made.

Please let me know if there is anything ASBSU or I can do to efficiently and effective address this issue. I appreciate your commitment to uplifting student voices and serving ALL Boise State students. I hope to hear from you soon.

Cambree Cambree (she/her/hers) ASBSU Vice President Boise State University

Go Broncos!★



Thank you Cambree for voicing this. Simply, there isn't much more to say.

What can be done is a complete and immediate removal of Big City Coffee from campus-- a resolution being deliberated in the General Assembly and Academic Senate can be expected in the coming weeks. This decision to bring Big City Coffee to campus did not adequately receive student opinion in the first place, please refer to email communications from Nicole to Student Government Leadership. It is wrong of Nicole Nimmons to think it's okay to ask a single individual of such a large and diverse population and check off the box of "getting student opinion". This action alone is oppressive and discounts the lived experience of countless other members of the community.

It should be understood that this is a call to action that does not reflect research into the costs of early contract termination, but is reactive to the situation at hand. Student Government is consulted time and time again for an opinion on various matters-- while it is important to consider all voices, the Last Person Framework implores us to make decisions that benefit the MOST marginalized communities. This clearly isn't represented in the decision to bring this company with such a harmful rhetoric towards so many members of the Student Body. It saddens my heart to say we have been ignored, disregarded, and frankly not cared for in many decisions made in the past. Moving forward, I have hope for a change in how we make decisions.

Thank you for starting the conversation Cambree,

[Quoted text hidden]

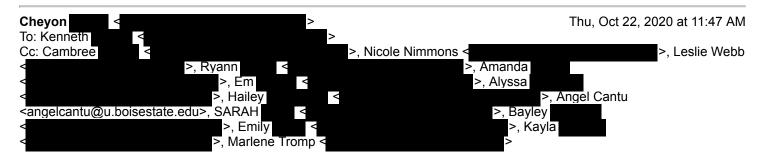
Kenneth (He/Him/His)

ASBSU Ethics Officer Chair Ethics Committee/ Advisor to the ASBSU Academic Senate and JFAC Sustainability Committee/Food Pantry Committee/ Eco Reps Faculty Senate Student Representative



Academic Integrity Program Assistant Office of the Dean of Students **Boise State University** Campus School Suite 120 (option 4)

To ensure prompt response, please contact me via email at Messages contained within this communication may be confidential or have sensitive information, please request permission to distribute or pass along prior to doing so.



Thank you Cambree for sending this email.

I will echo what both Cambree and Kenny have stated about this frankly frightful situation. I am deeply hurt from the recent post from Big City Coffee and disappointed at Boise State's negligence to "provide a culture of civility and success where all feel safe and free from discrimination, harassment, threats or intimidation" by bringing Big City Coffee onto our campus (Bosie State University Statement of Shared Values).

I have heard that there have already been conversions about the harmful presence of Big City Coffee, but it has not been properly addressed.

Please hear us and listen,

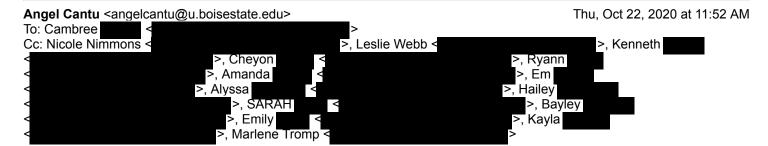
[Quoted text hidden]

Cheyon

Government Relations Officer for ASBSU

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers Boise State University





In regard to this specific instagram post, they literally just captioned it with a story about a police officer injured in the line of duty. The only inappropriate thing about the post was maybe the fact that they used a students snapchat story without permission. They did not however use it to put down the student, all they did was use it to acknowledge that students on campus don't want them here. They didn't say students should want them here. They also didn't say anything derogatory toward BIPOC folks or even BLM. Sympathizing with an injured police officer and supporting first responders should not in itself be defined as a harmful act. Only when individuals use support of police and first responders to undermine the struggles of the BIPOC community should it be considered harmful. However, this is not what the purpose of this post seemed to be. #BackTheBlue can be interpreted as a counter-movement to BLM and as a result inherently harmful to the progress of BIPOC folk. However it is hard to know if each individual who uses the hashtag #backtheblue uses it as a counter to BLM or just as a way to convey support to injured first responders. There are individuals out there that use this hashtag to put down BLM or uplift first responders, these two purposes can be mutually exclusive of one another.

With that being said, I cannot speak to the rhetoric of other comments made by this company and if a large number of Boise State students do not want this company to be contracted with our University I will support any legislation condemning it with the only condition being that the legislation presented display a pattern of derogatory behavior toward our BIPOC community by Big City Coffee. I will not, however, support any legislation that uses "sympathy toward first responders" as its sole reason for removing Big City Coffee.

Respectfully, Angel Cantu

On Thu, Oct 22, 2020 at 10:50 AM Cambree wrote: [Quoted text hidden]

Angel Cantu

Student Body President, ASBSU

Pronouns: He, Him, His

| angelcantu@u.boisestate.edu



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Ryann
                                                                                          Thu, Oct 22, 2020 at 12:09 PM
To: Angel Cantu <angelcantu@u.boisestate.edu>
Cc: Alyssa
                                                                                                       >, Bayley
                                                    >, Amanda
                                          >, Cambree
                                                                                               >, Cheyon
                                                                         >, Emily
                                >, Em
                                 >, Hailey
                                                                                       >, Kayla
                                                                                  >, Leslie Webb
                                >, Kenneth
                                                                           >, Nicole Nimmons
                           >, Marlene Tromp <
                                >, SARAH
  Yikes.
  The white supremacy is spilling out.
  With disgust and embarrassment,
  Ryann
  [Quoted text hidden]
  Ryann
               (She/Her/Hers)
  BSU MLK Living Legacy Chair
  Boise State University
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Cheyon
                                                                                         Thu, Oct 22, 2020 at 12:19 PM
To: Angel Cantu <angelcantu@u.boisestate.edu>
Cc: Alyssa
                                                                                                      >, Bayley
                                                   >, Amanda
                                          >, Cambree
                                                                                              >, Em
                            >, Emily
                                                                          >, Hailey
                                                                                   , Kenneth
                                  >, Kayla
                                 SARAH
                                                                                 Ryann
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Angel,

A few weeks ago you asked us to create a shared vision. Together we stated that we would "uplift and advocate for students of the best of our shared capacity, ensuring to keep the most marginalised intersections of identity at the center of our decision making" While your intentions may have been good, your response goes directly against this shared vision and silences the many voices of our vulnerable, marginalised students across campus. You silenced my voice and many others by invalidating our experiences and harm. It is not within your responsibilities as ASBSU president to pick and choose whether harm is valid.

This is not the first time this has happened.

Please seriously consider the further harm you have caused and consider holding yourself accountable as we discussed in our meeting this Monday.

[Quoted text hidden] [Quoted text hidden]

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Hailey
                                                                                         Thu, Oct 22, 2020 at 12:36 PM
To: Angel Cantu <angelcantu@u.boisestate.edu>
Cc: Cambree
                                                      >, Nicole Nimmons <
                                                                                                         >, Leslie Webb
                           >, Kenneth
                                                                             >, Cheyon
                                 , Ryann
                                                                             >, Amanda
                                 >, Em
                                                                          >, Alyssa
                                  SARAH
                                                                                >, Bayley
                                 >, Emily
                                                                                >, Kayla
                                 , Marlene Tromp
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Thank you Cambree, Kenny, Chey, and Ryann for speaking on this. I affirm what they have stated, and would like to express that in addition to the harm that this recent post by Big City Coffee has caused, I am most hurt and let down by the fact the university still has not taken action to support our BIPOC community.

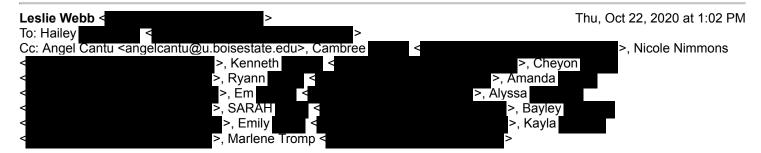
Throughout this entire process, the outreach for student feedback and input has been astonishingly minimal. I don't know how to fully convey that if student voices had been properly incorporated in this process, we wouldn't be in this situation.

Yet we are. And despite failing to act up to this point, the university still can. It won't negate the harm that has been caused, but this cannot continue. If action isn't taken, this will only confirm what many students already feel: that businesses have more value on this campus than student voice. I assure you that students will be organizing around the removal of Big City from our campus, and I urge administration to join us.

Angel, I am disappointed to see you still have not taken up the IESC's multiple offers on education around the history of police brutality and Black Lives Matter. I hope that you learn from the resources we have shared with you in the past as your current statements indicate you have not done so.

Sincerely, Hailey

On Thu, Oct 22, 2020 at 11:52 AM Angel Cantu <angelcantu@u.boisestate.edu> wrote: [Quoted text hidden]



Cambree and all -- Thank you for bringing this to us. I can feel the pain in this conversation. Dr. Tromp and I just discussed the conversation that took place in her morning class on this topic.

Nicole was on the phone with the business owner just now. And we are meeting with them later today.

I will circle back around.

Leslie

[Quoted text hidden]

Leslie Webb, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

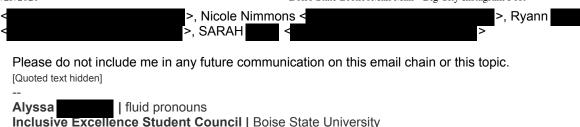
Boise State University

1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1300

Phone:

*She/Her





Boise State University occupies Shoshone-Bannock land.

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SARAH
                                                                                           Thu, Oct 22, 2020 at 2:01 PM
To: Angel Cantu <angelcantu@u.boisestate.edu>
Cc: Amanda
                                                    >, Bayley
                                                                                                        >. Cambree
                                        >, Cheyon
                                                                                         >, Em
                            >, Emily
                                                                           >, Hailey
                                                                                  >, Kenneth
                                  >, Kayla
                               >, Leslie Webb <
                                                                         >, Marlene Tromp
                              >, Nicole Nimmons <
                                                                                 >, Ryann
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Angel,

Going along Cheyon's lines, I was aware of a mutual understanding that we, as a team, came to in how we were going to be the best advocates for the students. As the ASBSU President, I was disappointed with your email response as it goes directly against what I thought we had a mutual understanding of.

Furthermore, businesses on campus should not be outing students via social media to enforce a point that is ultimately harmful to our student community on campus. There was no student input in the initial decision to bring Big City Coffee to campus and that is an issue that does need to be addressed.

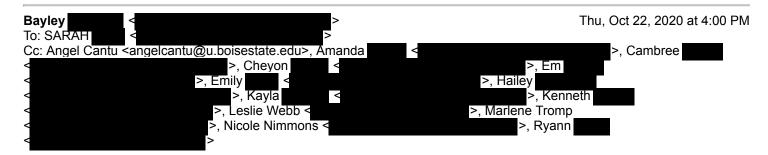
Thank you Leslie for keeping us updated and in the loop of what's going on.

Sincerely, Sarah [Quoted text hidden]

Sarah

Administrative Director for ASBSU

[Quoted text hidden]



Let us be clear: the purpose of Big City Coffee's post was not to uplift anyone. The point of Big City Coffee's post was to mock and delegitimize the views of BSU's students.

It was a propagandist and authoritarian message meant to portray police officers as victims and those who they abuse as "gang member[s]." It is a subscription to our worst cultural stereotypes, the police state and outright violence towards BIPOC.

There is no middle ground. Big City Coffee is directly at odds with what we stand for as an institution that strives for legitimate, multicultural education and for an existence that extends beyond "might makes right." We cannot allow Big City to define the terms of BSU's campus. They are a malignancy that must be removed.

With grave concern and discontent,

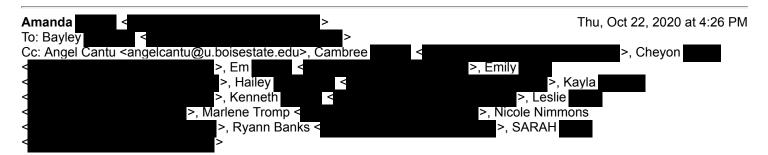
Bayley

[Quoted text hidden]

He/Him/His

Vice President of Academic Affairs

ASBSU



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this chain.

I've said this before, and I will say it again. The decision to bring Big City Coffee, an organization that so proudly supports Thin Blue Line, onto campus during the height of the Black Lives Movement over the summer was extremely problematic. The decision was entirely anti-black and devalued the experiences and the lives of BIPOC students on campus. I'm not surprised by this situation, but I am extremely disappointed. The post, the comments on the post, and this whole situation has been triggering and harmful. I agree with Kenneth and Bayley that the only appropriate response would be immediate removal.

Angel, I'm extremely disappointed by your response and your decision to devalue student voices yet again. I hope that you can take this as a learning opportunity and try to show solidarity with students who are hurt and harmed by your actions and the actions of the university.

-Amanda

[Quoted text hidden]

Amanda She/Her/Hers

Boise State University | Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication

McNair Scholar

Boise State Writing Center Consultant

English Department Main Office Assistant