

SIUE police investigate incidents involving racial slur, Confederate flag

By Ashley Jost, St. Louis Post Dispatch, Sep 18, 2017.

St. Louis – Police at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville are investigating two incidents on campus last week, one that involved a racist note left on a student’s on-campus apartment door.

Sophomore Lamone Stansbury saw the note on his way back from dinner with friends on campus Sept. 13. It read: “Filthy (plural N-word).”

The economics and finance major from Chicago, said he was floored.

“I don’t think I’ve ever experienced blatant racism like that,” he said. SIUE police have since taken the note and are looking for who wrote the message.

Stansbury is frustrated that it took two days before he heard back from campus leaders, but the college sophomore says he has since received an outpouring of support from faculty, staff and administrators offering up office hours and open doors to talk.

University leaders are putting plans in place to have counselors available immediately for victims of hate, like Stansbury. That was one of several items on a work-in-progress list sent out the campus community, condemning the racist note as well as another incident that happened during the overnight hours the previous weekend.

A campus spokesman said SIUE’s facilities crews reported that someone painted a confederate flag on The Rock, a campus staple that’s literally a boulder on the quad that student groups paint to promote events.

“Two recent incidents, one at Cougar Village and one in the University core, occurred when unidentified individuals posted symbols and racist language toward African Americans that demonstrate racial intolerance or signify hate and oppression, and defy our values and expectations,” the campus-wide email said.

Another administration action item was working on creating a response team to handle hate crimes on campus.

“This disrespectful behavior is unacceptable and has no place at SIUE,” the email said.