From: Office of the Chancellor

To: <u>Carrie Olson</u>

Subject: FW: suggestion for improving campus climate Date: Saturday, May 07, 2016 10:54:10 AM

From: Laura Albert McLay

**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2016 10:53 AM

**To:** Office of the Chancellor < chancellor@wisc.edu> **Subject:** suggestion for improving campus climate

I am a faculty member in Industrial and Systems Engineering who is passionate about diversity and improving the climate at UW.

I have an idea for improving the campus climate. I know the deadline has passed, but I did not think of it until now and I wanted to share my idea anyway.

## My idea is to promote diversity and student heath in bathroom stalls.

My previous university of Virginia Commonwealth University did this in what they called the "Stall Seat Journal." Every month of two they would put new It is a (11x16")

- informs students on being good citizens (campus climate!)
- reminds students about deadlines (withdrawing from class deadline, fill out evaluations)
- includes statistics and articles about health and safety, often about drinking and drugs (to combat party culture)

The Stall Seat Journal is cheesy, informal, and fun. It was successful in normalizing the idea that not everyone parties. Some of the topics are about microaggressions, and I think it can encourage students to listen to each other and learn something, a critical component in improving campus climate. It could be a way to subtly make students recognize that some of their behaviors are not healthy by providing them with a better alternative. A huge benefit is that these might not be seen as a diversity effort.

## Read an article about it here:

http://www.news.vcu.edu/article/The\_Stall\_Seat\_Journal\_10\_Years\_of\_Aha\_and\_HaHa\_Health\_News See the archive here: http://www.thewell.vcu.edu/

Here is the latest Stall Seat Journal.



This would cost something. The installation cost is not insignificant. VCU put plastic holders in each bathroom stall to insert the Stall Seat Journal. Staff would ideally lead group of student employees to create, typeset, and distribute the stall seat journals each month.

best, Laura Albert McLay

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