“Concerned Adjuncts” letter response, sent August 4, 2016

To each and every valued member of our community,

Over the past day, I have been hearing that an anonymous letter attributed to a purported group of “Concerned Adjunct Faculty” has been circulating through the School either literally or by rumor. Such an anonymous letter, and particularly one that does not add constructively to our discussions of bringing greater anti-racism practice to our organization, does not warrant a substantive response.

This letter does not in any way represent our School. For the past year, we as a community have been engaged in important, productive, and collaborative work to continually evolve as an anti-racism organization as it relates to our educational and organizational processes. I speak for the resident faculty, the vast majority of the adjunct faculty and all the administrators at this School when I say that we are proud of our students. You are the students we want. You belong here. You are valued.

It takes courage to stand up, put oneself on the line to help raise a collective voice to ask for greater accountability. It takes integrity to place and keep the focus of change on our organization and to not demean others in the process. It takes resolve to work with this important process of change particularly as we face challenges.

Reflecting on the past weeks, I see the ways that our community has done all of these things. I have been humbled by the process. I am grateful to work alongside all of you – incisive, principled, and respectful emerging and established professionals dedicated to excellence in clinical social work and greater anti-racism practice.

We will continue to move forward together. I encourage everyone to get involved: Come to meetings, use the Feedback Loop, voice your ideas and concerns, be part of the dialogue. All are welcome at the table.

With respect and love,
Marianne Yoshioka, PhD, MSW
Dean and Elizabeth Marting Treuhaft Professor