To the Community, 

We write to describe a hateful, destructive, and unacceptable violation of the law and of our community standards. The language that follows here is very disturbing.

At about 6:50 am today a student in Morgan Hall woke up to find a penis drawn on their white board with a black marker. The word “n*****” was written vertically on the penis with blue marker. The student on whose board this was written is African American. The student erased the writing and drawing (the writing immediately, and the drawing at about 11am as it required board cleaner to remove). At 1pm the student reported what had happened to Campus Safety and Security.

Campus Safety immediately reported what had happened to the Williamstown Police Department and has contacted Federal authorities. A full investigation is underway to find whoever committed this act and to hold them accountable.

We are appalled and heartsick -both at this attack on an individual and at this attempt to disrupt our community. Such an act would be reprehensible at any time, but it is particularly disgusting that this happened right after Claiming Williams, and at the beginning of Black History month. Williams cannot be truly whole as long as such racism occurs here.

We continue to work with many members of the community to address this act, and also to make Williams a place of welcome for all students, staff, and faculty. We are a part of a larger society where many biases abide, but as a college we can learn from one another, and we can do better. The leadership of College Council as well as of the Minority Coalition and its subgroups welcome students to contact them with any suggestions, or to talk. Deans, chaplains, counselors and the staff of the Davis Center are also available to any student who would like to talk, either this weekend or going forward.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bolton, Dean of the College and Professor of Physics
Steve Klass, Vice President for Campus Life