Case 1

A genderqueer student recently submitted a request to the department Chair asking to be allowed to change lab sections into an already full lab. They shared that they had been experiencing transphobic incidents in their current lab section. The student did not elaborate on the incidences but said they did not want them reported and simply hoped to change their environment. This Chair has been in their role for quite some time, yet has not experienced anything similar. They have always followed certain protocols in response to lab change requests. Their intention is to be fair by using the same approach they have always used with all students.

Before you respond to this interaction, practice socially and culturally appropriate perspective taking by:

1. Identifying one of your own social locations, how does that impact your perspective in reviewing this scenario?
2. Identifying one possible social location of each of those involved in the scenario:
   a. How might the individuals in this case study feel and why might they feel that way?
   b. How might the Chair and the student’s respective social locations and experiences possibly have shaped their behavior, beliefs, decisions, requests, and values?
3. Consider the request made by the student and what factors might be at play in the request?
4. Consider the possible options/actions of the Chair? What are the possible impacts of each of these options?
5. If you were the Chair, how would you have responded and why? How does your own perspective play into the response?