



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**San Diego State University Senate Resolution in Response to the Racial Violence  
Targeting Black People and Communities in the United States**

Whereas: Protests are occurring across the United States after the death of George Floyd. Floyd was killed after a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota pinned him down by the neck. This event follows a number of incidents of racial violence targeting Black people, including the killing of Breonna Taylor in Kentucky by police in her own home, the vigilante killing of Ahmaud Arbery while jogging in a Brunswick, Georgia neighborhood, and the killing of Tony McDade by police in Tallahassee, Florida.

Whereas: The U.S. Justice System has been slow to respond and hold both responsible institutions and persons accountable for these acts.

Whereas: San Diego county is not immune to the mistreatment of Black people by members of the law enforcement community. In 2016, police in El Cajon, California shot and killed an unarmed Alfred Olongo. Olongo was a refugee from Uganda whose family had come to the U.S. to pursue a safer and better life. Moreover, recent news reports from La Mesa, California show the arrest of a Black man who was repeatedly pushed and manhandled by a police officer. The police officer has been put on leave.

Whereas: In response to these incidents of racial violence targeting Black people, President de la Torre released a statement noting: "Our hearts ache with sorrow and outrage as we witness, yet again, the ongoing disregard for human life and human dignity. The overt racism in our society only seems more harrowing because video recordings captured several more cases in which unarmed African-American men and women were killed while engaged in mundane, daily activities, even near and in the privacy of their homes."

Whereas: The University Senate has a longstanding commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Specifically, the Senate's diversity statement indicates that SDSU's academic and co-curricular programs should reflect all diverse communities and be attentive to: "Freedom from discrimination, harassment, and *violence against persons* or property is a basic right and is requisite for learning."

Whereas: SDSU has a long established and well-respected Criminal Justice bachelor's degree program that is "designed to encourage thoughtful exploration of the ways that criminal justice systems provide "justice", or fail to do so. The program also studies criminal justice from a social justice perspective, allowing for the examination of policy issues as diverse as genocide, [and] institutionalized racism..."

Whereas: To further enhance this program, there is a need to ensure that SDSU's criminal justice graduates will enter careers in law enforcement or other justice system related careers prepared to engage Black communities in healthy ways while also holding colleagues accountable for the pervasive and normalized violence towards Black people. This resolution is designed to advance this aim.

Therefore, be it resolved that the SDSU University Senate condemns acts of hatred and violence towards Black people by law enforcement, and within the criminal justice system overall; and

Be it resolved that the SDSU University Senate condemns the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Alfred Olongo, Tony McDade; and

Be it resolved that the SDSU University Senate urge CSU Chancellor Timothy White, the CSU Chancellor's Office, the Academic Senate of the CSU, President de la Torre, the SDSU Administration, appropriate Senate and campus committees, and all members of the campus community to support and, where authorized and appropriate, to enact the following:

- That SDSU's School of Public Affairs establish a "Race-Relations in Criminal Justice" requirement for graduation. That all students earning a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from SDSU be required to take this course as part of a graduation requirement or other general education requirement. This requirement can be met through two pathways:
  - Pathway 1: That the faculty in the School of Public Affairs identify or develop courses that can meet this requirement that have a specific focus on the dynamic between law enforcement and Black communities.
  - Pathway 2: That Ethnic Studies departments in collaboration with the School of Public Affairs convene their faculty to identify a set of Ethnic Studies courses that will also satisfy the "Race-Relations in Criminal Justice" requirement for Criminal Justice students; and further
    - That beginning in the 2021/2022 catalogue, that Africana Studies 380 - Blacks in the American Justice System be added to the list of approved courses which may satisfy the Ethnic Studies graduation requirement and that this course be demarcated as satisfying the "Race-Relations in Criminal Justice" requirement.
- That all SDSU students in other majors who plan to enter into the field of law enforcement be encouraged to complete the "Race-Relations in Criminal Justice" requirement.
- That beginning in the Fall of 2021 all entering SDSU students (first time first year, transfers, and graduate students) are required to participate in an interactive web-based tool to assess their own racial biases and provides students with training to address their own biases and issues of social justice and racial inequity.
- That no later than Fall of 2020, that the School of Public Affairs partners with SDSU World Campus, to offer a course on race relations and policing that can be made available, at low-cost or no-cost, to law enforcement and other agencies affiliated with the criminal justice system in San Diego and across the nation.
- That no later than Spring of 2021, that the School of Public Affairs partners with SDSU World Campus and others, to offer a certificate program on race relations in criminal justice to law enforcement and other agencies affiliated with the criminal justice system in San Diego and across the nation.
- That the SDSU administration immediately provide sufficient resources to Africana Studies in order to fulfill their tasks concerning pathways 1 and 2.

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