

Dear SF State Community,

We write to you today to align our voices with incredible anger, sorrow, and grief in our country and campus community today, and with specific regard to our Black students, faculty and staff who experience specific pain due to the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. These senseless killings, unfortunately, are only the most recent in a long list of casualties at the hands of systemic racism.

We know that adding symbolic words is a limited response in the movement for justice. But as educators, we also believe that words carry powerful meaning. In particular, we affirm the deep mission of our university to continue to practice the “unwavering commitment to social justice” and anti-racism. It is our responsibility to continue to address the structures of violence and to tirelessly work toward creating policies that rectify the histories of inequity and the interlocking systems of violence rooted in white supremacy. That is also to continually reiterate that Black Lives Matter.

We, the faculty and staff at San Francisco State University, strive to create a space where our community can feel safe, validated and supported. We are inspired by those protestors who risk their personal safety in the demands for change. We are inspired by our students and colleagues who are leading that call. And given the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge social distancing, wearing masks and other precautions when possible.

We will continue to work with our colleagues from across the campus to address all the interlocking systems of violence that comprise this structure, and in particular to stand in solidarity against anti-Blackness, even as we see it present itself in our own actions. This process is ongoing and requires an openness to critique and also to each other.

We often use the term “shared governance” to describe our community. Right now, and more than ever, the shared term must be stressed. We share the call for change. We share the call for justice. We share the commitment to stand in solidarity with members of the Black community at San Francisco State in a grief and anger that many of us might never know the depths of.

Most importantly we share the pride we see in our students and colleagues and in our university. Thank you for your energy, your effort and also your unwavering commitment to making this world a more just and equitable place.

Signed,

The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

Teddy Albiniaik, Chair of the Academic Senate
Jackson Wilson, Vice Chair of the Academic Senate
Kim Schwartz, Secretary of the Academic Senate
Cynthia Wilczak, At-Large Representative to the Executive Committee
Rachel Small, At-Large Representative to the Executive Committee
Genie Stowers, Chair of the Academic Policies Committee

Ellen Hines, Chair of the Curriculum Review and Approval Committee
Michael Goldman, Chair of the Strategic Issues Committee
David Olsher, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee
Jasper Rubin, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee
Rob Collins, ASCSU Representative
Darlene Yee-Melichar, ASCSU Representative
Nancy Gerber, ASCSU Representative