



RESOLUTION

SSR 2019/2020-006

I. Resolution Name: Resolution Against Racial Injustice

II. Committee Assigned/Sponsoring Committee: Executive Committee

III. Stated Resolution:

Be it resolved that the University of Central Oklahoma Staff Senate stands with our staff, faculty, and students of color in this time of hurt, confusion, frustration, and civil unrest in Oklahoma and across the country due to racial injustices which have happened for far too long in our country and in our local communities. We are saddened by the senseless loss of lives—George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many other individuals—based on the color of their skin.

We recognize these acts of violence against our communities of color have a significant and personal impact for our colleagues and students at UCO. We condemn divisiveness, hatred, and violence, and we call upon our colleagues to draw strength from our shared values of Community, Character, and Civility in order to engage in courageous conversations that will lead to understanding, respect, and healing for all members of our community. We echo President Neuhold-Ravikumar’s call for our colleagues to “join in the university’s efforts to foster an inclusive community that starts on our campus but is not bound by our campus borders.”

We, as a Staff Senate, commit to the elimination of racial injustices in our Central and Metropolitan communities, including but not limited to supporting evidence-based training, education, and reporting mechanisms through legislation. We will be proactive in educating ourselves, engaging in existing training, and supporting the campus’ inclusive community efforts.

IV. Definition of Terms:

N/A

V. Justification:

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, along with several other events around the country in recent months as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, have highlighted the racial injustices that are embedded in the social and institutional systems of our country and our local communities. As an institution of higher education, it is our responsibility to educate productive, creative, ethical, and engaged citizens and leaders to serve our global community. This mission cannot be achieved without our colleagues, staff and faculty, who teach, mentor, and support each other and our students. In this time of civil unrest, we must come together to define our future and chart our path, understanding that an active commitment to justice and equity are essential to becoming one of the nation's top metropolitan universities. We encourage our community to engage in conversations and take action, uniting our voices and influence for justice, peace, and healing of our metropolitan community and beyond.

VI. Office(s) Contacted: (List all offices/departments contacted for information, and keep record of the conversations in your Senate files.)

N/A

VII. Office(s) Affected: (Be specific, as these offices may receive the resolution, if passed.)

N/A

VIII. Directed to: (List individual(s), office(s), or department(s) that are to receive the resolution, if passed.)

Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar, University President
Charlotte Simmons, Ph.D., Interim Co-Provost
Gary Steward, Ph.D., Interim Co-Provost
Kevin Freeman, Vice President for Operations
Diane Feinberg, Vice President for People and Culture
Drew Duke, Interim Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success
Adrienne Nobles, Vice President for Communication and Public Affairs
Anne Holzberlein, Vice President for Advancement
Sonya Watkins, Chief Information Officer
Kendall Parrish, General Counsel
MeShawn Green, Inclusive Community Advocate
David Macey Ph.D., Chair for the Committee on Diversity
Jeff Harp, Chief of Police
Norman Nieves, Director for Emergency Management
The UCO Community

Passed by consent of the UCO Staff Senate this 2nd day of June, 2020.



Scott DeBoard, Staff Senate President