



## RESOLUTION

SSR 2020/2021-005

- I. **Resolution Name:** (5 word limit) Resolution Supporting UCO's AAPI Community
- II. **Committee Assigned/Sponsoring Committee:** Executive Committee
- III. **Stated Resolution:**

Be it resolved that the University of Central Oklahoma Staff Senate endorses the Diversity Round Table (DRT) statement supporting Asian-American and Pacific Islander students, faculty, and staff that are a part of the UCO community. The complete DRT statement is included below:

For over a year, campus and community members have shown their strength and resilience by enduring frustration, confusion, and anger brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many individuals have faced financial hardships, mental health issues, and unemployment.

One of the most tragic consequences of polarized response to COVID-19 is increased xenophobia, sinophobia, and overall anti-Asian sentiment. This sentiment has been expressed in a physical manner with increasing frequency as the year has progressed. Hate crimes against Asian communities have been reported across the nation, from San Diego to New York. These attacks are horrifying and we, as American citizens, condemn these horrifying attacks and forms of bias-related violence.

The work of the Diversity Round Table is informed by four core principles: community, advocate, educate, and celebrate. We refer to these as our CACE principles. We use these principles here to build a safe community in which all persons feel included as well as to advocate, celebrate, and to educate the campus about historically marginalized populations who are part of the UCO community.

Racism, as we know, was in the forefront throughout 2020. Movements such as Black Lives Matter and the campaign to extend DACA for Dreamers have forcefully challenged this pervasive racism and its effects. As activists and advocates, we know that the time for change is now.

Asian-Americans in this country are not immune from racist threats, slurs, and actions. They are not the "model minority" to whom all other communities should be compared. The Diversity Round Table supports

and values the Asian community not only on campus, but throughout the OKC Metro.

Organizations including Stop AAPI Hate and Hate Is A Virus are fighting to end anti-Asian sentiments and hate crimes, which have increased rapidly since the pandemic began. We urge you to visit and share the websites to spread awareness, and to consider donating to support this important work, if you are able. We also urge you to report any forms of bias that you witness or experience on campus by using the Inclusive Community Response Team's Bias Report available at [www.uco.edu/icrt](http://www.uco.edu/icrt).

Sincerely,  
Diversity Round Table

**IV. Definition of Terms:**

N/A

**V. Justification:**

The increase in incidents of discrimination and hate against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community serve as an additional painful reminder that racial injustices are a fact of daily life for many people in this country. UCO strives to be a welcoming place for people of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds. As an institution dedicated to education, it is the responsibility of our campus community to model behavior and actions that confront and rebut the difficult reality that our Asian American and Pacific Islander students, faculty, and staff face.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office/Department</u>	<u>Date Contacted</u>
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N/A

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

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

Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar, University President  
David Farias, President, UCO Diversity Round Table

Passed by consent of the UCO Staff Senate this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

  
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Scott DeBoard, Staff Senate President