

June 4, 2020

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN FACULTY SENATE STATEMENT IN
SUPPORT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

The Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln shares the outrage and deep concern expressed in the statements of our university leadership in response to the senseless homicides of George Floyd, Sean Reed, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, and the countless other acts of harassment, racism and discrimination that people of color face daily. We steadfastly support our students, faculty and staff of color, we share the desire for justice, and we commit to improving the social and campus climate moving forward.

We have learned in the recent past that these moments, even when they take place outside of our immediate communities, have a significant impact on the sense of security, justice, fairness and human dignity among our students and colleagues, and so we support all efforts to ensure that those of our community most affected by issues of policing are assured of living and working in a protected and secure environment.

The Faculty Senate recognizes that many of the problems highlighted by this situation are directly tied to systemic racial inequities that have plagued this country for centuries, and we are committed to finding ways to ensure that these structures do not have a place in our university. The Faculty Senate calls on all of us to consider ways of contributing to positive social change on our campus and broader community, including active participation in shared governance structures so that we can, as a campus, ensure that our institutional policies and practices align with our mission to create an inclusive and equitable campus climate that provides access and opportunity for all Huskers.

The Faculty Senate believes that our actions should match our values. Inclusive excellence is all of our responsibility and should be championed in every committee, every classroom, and in every unit. Now is the time to share experiences, to really listen to each other, and to renew our institution so that it works for everyone. To that end, the Faculty Senate has recently created and accelerated the formation of the Senate Committee on Diversity and Inclusion which is charged with reforming academic policies and procedures to be more equitable and more inclusive. The Faculty Senate is strongly committed to working with Vice Chancellor Marco Barker and the UNL Office of Diversity and Inclusion to take concrete steps toward making our campus a place where everyone can thrive and where “Every person and every interaction matters.” We look forward to rolling up our sleeves alongside all of you in doing this important work.
Sincerely,

Faculty Senate Executive Committee:
President Nicole Buan, Biochemistry
President-Elect Steve Kolbe, Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film
Past President Kevin Hanrahan, Glenn Korff School of Music

Secretary Lorna Dawes, University Libraries
Dave Billesbach, Biological Systems Engineering
Peter Eklund, Glenn Korff School of Music
Rodrigo Franco Cruz, Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences
Tim Gay, Physics & Astronomy
Michelle Krehbiel, 4-H Youth Development
Deb Minter, English
Kristy Weissling, Special Education and Communication Disorders
David Woodman, School of Biological Sciences
Karen Griffin, Coordinator of Faculty Governance

Recommended resources:

UNL Office of Diversity and Inclusion <https://diversity.unl.edu/>
UNL demographic data <https://iea.unl.edu/data-index>
TIPS reporting <https://www.unl.edu/tips-incident-reporting-system/>
Student Counseling and Psychological Services <https://caps.unl.edu/>
Faculty and Staff Health and Wellness Resources <https://hr.unl.edu/health-wellness/>
Institutional Equity and Compliance <https://www.unl.edu/equity/reporting>
Tolerance <https://www.tolerance.org/topics/race-ethnicity>
Conscious Company <https://consciouscompanymedia.com/the-new-economy/recommended-readings-on-racism-and-black-american-history/>
Recommended readings <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/ariannarebolini/george-floyd-amy-cooper-antiracist-books-reading-resources>.
Chancellor Ronnie Green Statement
<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/chancellor-green-racism-in-any-form-is-wrong-and-has-no-place-in-our-lives/>
VC Marco Barker Statement
<https://diversity.unl.edu/echoing-call-systemic-change>
NU Student Regent Statement
<https://nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2020/05/a-joint-statement-of-the-student-regents-of-the-university-of-nebraska>
NU President Carter Statement
https://twitter.com/UofNE_President/status/1266884607615565828?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ct_wcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1266884607615565828&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.unl.edu%2Fnewsrooms%2Ftoday%2Farticle%2Funiversity-community-responds-to-national-protests%2F