

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Black Lives Matter Subcommittee¹
RE: Resolution: University Faculty Senate Recognizes and Supports Black Lives Matter
DATE: 22 January 2021
LOCATION: Online
RESOLUTION#: 187-04-1
VOTE TALLY: For: 33 / Against: 5 / Abstain: 4

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS the SUNY Board of Trustees 9/10/2015 Resolution on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy desires to make SUNY the most inclusive higher education system in the country; and

WHEREAS white supremacy and white privilege² exist within society and within SUNY; and

WHEREAS all of SUNY has not yet recognized the toxic impact of internalized racism, systemic racial oppression, terror, violence, white privilege and institutional racism within the SUNY community; and

WHEREAS students, faculty, and staff at SUNY campuses have experienced mental, spiritual, and physical trauma resulting from racism; and

WHEREAS “not racist” is not the same as “anti-racist”; and

WHEREAS we acknowledge the lives lost³, from Emmett Till to George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor and the countless unnamed victims of racial violence; and

WHEREAS the Black Lives Matter movement is a prominent international social movement dedicated to fighting the injustices listed above; and

WHEREAS the University Faculty Senate serves as a resource on governance for the University⁴ and the University Faculty Senate serves as a deliberative body on educational policies for the SUNY System⁵;

¹ Black Lives Matter Subcommittee charge – “This committee will consider the ethical, curricular, operational and student implications of Black Lives Matter. It is expected that resolutions and/or white papers will emerge.”

² https://psychology.umbc.edu/files/2016/10/White-Privilege_McIntosh-1989.pdf

³ <https://sayevery.name/>

⁴ <https://system.suny.edu/facultysenate/>

⁵ <https://system.suny.edu/facultysenate/>

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate formally recognize that Black lives matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate encourage campus governance bodies to formally endorse the basic tenets of Black Lives Matter⁶; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate acknowledge the toxic impact of internalized racism, systemic racial oppression, terror, violence, white privilege and institutional racism within the SUNY community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate strive for anti-racist practices in our individual and collective work at SUNY by committing to addressing the ethical, curricular, operational, professional, and student implications of Black Lives Matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that campus governance bodies identify and eliminate all forms of white supremacy and or racial injustice on our campuses by analyzing and investigating the experiences of Black Communities within our designated scope of education policies, shared governance, and on our individual campuses by acting on that analysis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that campus governance bodies support the curricular and co-curricular exploration of topics related to Black Lives Matter including, racial (in)equity, (in)justice, and movements for social change, to name a few.

⁶ See <https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/>