

Statement from the Campus Safety Commission

June 3, 2020

The Campus Safety Commission recognizes the stress and anxiety that many members of our community may be feeling during these extraordinary times. Between the racial and social inequities associated with the global COVID-19 pandemic and the killings of Nina Pop, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, it is clear that our nation continues, as it has since 1619, to struggle with issues of safety, belonging, and racial bigotry. We recognize the prominent role of long-standing systemic racism embedded in many of the nation's police departments in perpetuating the violence and injustices that we are witnessing once again in the present moment.

We stand with those who are at the forefront of the battle against these and other long-standing injustices. Every crisis is an opportunity to rethink, retool, and reimagine. As a collective body, with safety at the core of its mission, we recognize that progress is only possible with fairness, justice, and equality. This relates not only to the names we have all seen in the recent news, but also stems from long-standing inequities against people of color, specifically Black and African American people, as well as other marginalized individuals and groups. The synergy between these issues and the campus climate has generated feelings of marginalization, hurt, and anger amongst members of our community.

Justice is an action verb. Thus, intentional and purposeful actions are needed to promote safety and belonging, which are pillars of our Campus Safety Commission. We must continue our work to promote policies that will enhance feelings of safety and belonging for the university community.

On behalf of [the commission](#):

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