

Title: Faculty Assembly Resolution Expressing Its Solidarity with Black Lives Matter Movement, and Calling for Institutional Level Changes through Meaningful Actions

WHEREAS, the unlawful killing of another African American community member, George Floyd, at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer has ignited country-wide protests and social unrest, and

WHEREAS, these incidents have challenged the political discourse and brought the fatal impacts of systemic racial discrimination to the forefront once again, and

WHEREAS, institutional racism and deeply entrenched biases continues to permeate American society, perpetuating injustice and threatening civil society, and

WHEREAS, Stockton University's strategic plan encompassing "diversity and inclusion"¹ purports to offer a safe space to faculty of color that is free from prejudice and discrimination, and

WHEREAS, Stockton University's mission is "to develop engaged and effective citizens with a commitment to life-long learning and the capacity to adapt to change in a multi-cultural, interdependent world," and

WHEREAS, Stockton University "provides an environment for excellence to a diverse student body, including those from underrepresented populations, through an interdisciplinary approach to liberal arts, sciences and professional education," and

WHEREAS, President Kesselman recently stated, "These critical moments remind us that we all must continue to do the impactful and purposeful work necessary to address racial discrimination and social inequality" and called for creating "a space for members of our University community to reflect on the recent tragedies and to discuss opportunities to strengthen our support for our African American and Latinx communities on campus," and

WHEREAS, Stockton is expected to be a leader in the South Jersey community and national higher education, it is our moral, social, and professional responsibility to create a positive change to impact our future generations; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED THAT (#1) the Faculty Assembly insists that Stockton University reaffirms itself as a safe, welcoming, and inclusive institution of higher education and let that be known unequivocally through a community-wide press release, and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#2) the Faculty Assembly insists the Stockton University Board of Trustees ("Board") declare its firm commitment to strengthen diversity and inclusion by undertaking meaningful structural and institutional changes to ensure anti-racist values and priorities are integrated throughout Stockton's activities and initiatives, and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#3) the Faculty Assembly insists the Board officially declare its support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and be it further

¹ <https://stockton.edu/strategic-plan/diversity-inclusion.html>

RESOLVED THAT (#4) the Faculty Assembly further insists the Board identify a physical space on Galloway campus to be called “Black Lives Matter Square” or “BLM Square” or other designation in recognition of the Black Lives Matter movement, and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#5) the Faculty Assembly insists the Faculty Senate revise the general education curriculum to require substantial coursework taught or approved by Africana Studies that deals specifically with issues of systemic racial oppression and discrimination in the United States, and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#6) the Faculty Assembly insists that two tenure-track faculty lines for Africana Studies Program be approved during AY’20-21, and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#7) the Faculty Assembly insists Stockton University take action based upon the recommendations of the Faculty Senate Hate Speech Task Force including revising all codes of conduct to strengthen prohibitions on hate speech by all community members on and off campus, and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#8) the Faculty Assembly insists that Stockton University constitute an institutional level task force to develop a clear and specific strategy for evaluating the role and finances of the Stockton University Police Department and its relationships to local police departments, including additional ways to build positive citizen-police relationships and eliminate negative impacts of policing, particularly on communities of color, and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#9) a copy of this resolution be submitted to the Provost, President, and Board of Trustees upon passage, with an official request for reply on parts relevant to respective identified parties herein.