FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–04

Addressing Institutional Racism in Law Enforcement


**WHEREAS**, there has been a spate of highly publicized deaths of African American males being pursued by, or in the custody of, White law enforcement officers across the United States¹,²,³,⁴, and

**WHEREAS**, communities of color are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system⁵, and

**WHEREAS**, students, staff, and faculty of color experience similar racial injustice on their own campuses⁶, and

**WHEREAS**, members of the campus community are called on to “advance justice, equality, compassion,” and “engage as a citizen,”⁷ and

**WHEREAS**, the university values diversity as exemplified in its commitment to “equal opportunity...without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran’s status,” then

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Faculty Senate at Louisiana State University stands together with other universities that are addressing the systemic racism within the criminal justice system in the United States of America⁹,¹⁰,¹¹,¹²,¹³.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** we call upon the campus community to participate in

- “immediate and sustained meaningful support to those closest to these struggles”¹²
• “non-violent social and political action to provoke systemic change that promotes justice, safeguards human rights, and ensures fair and equitable treatment and respect for human dignity for all people
• critical dialogue about the systemic forces of race and racism that shape ourselves and construct our relationships with others
• investigation and analysis of how these dynamics affect the communities within which we live and work”
• “development of collective community approaches to begin healing both the acute pain and suffering caused by these events and the historical trauma relived in their wake every day”
• strategizing around solutions to dismantle racist institutions and practices.
• supporting those who are most affected by oppression and injustices inherent in our systems
• advocacy for policies that support alternatives to policing including community based approaches to safety and conflict resolution
• improving relations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve
• encouraging individuals and agencies in positions of power to serve their constituents with fairness and sensitivity

References


