

De Anza College Academic Senate Statement of Solidarity With Black Lives Matter

The De Anza Academic Senate Executive Committee (noting that the De Anza Academic Senate includes ALL full-time and part-time De Anza faculty employed by the Foothill De Anza Community College District), publicly announces this statement of solidarity with Black Lives Matter (BLM) and the people who are part of this multiracial, multiethnic worldwide movement. This movement addresses inequities faced by many segments of our college community, and our broader society. We also note that the BLM movement also includes activists who ARE our students.

Unquestionably, the outrageous murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 unleashed a torrent of longstanding frustrations and anger within American society, and throughout the world. The numerous unjustifiable deaths of other Black people, and other People of Color at the hands of municipal and state-funded law enforcement officers must cease.

The De Anza Academic Senate Executive Committee acknowledges the existence of social inequities that have their genesis in various forms of institutional racism. We affirm our awareness that Black and Brown and Indigenous people are also burdened with bearing the brunt of economic hardships, illnesses, and deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The De Anza Academic Senate Executive Committee acknowledges the collective pain and difficulties that our students and other members of our collective college and worldwide communities are facing.

The De Anza Academic Senate Executive Committee stands in solidarity and support with our students, staff, and faculty who are suffering physically, mentally, and emotionally as a result of this social strife and upheaval that has accelerated in Spring 2020. We also stand in solidarity with our students, staff, and faculty who are activists in the Black Lives Matter movement.

Accordingly, The De Anza Academic Senate Executive Committee solidly supports the goals and objectives of the worldwide Black Lives Matter movement; and with our Black Staff and Faculty Association (BFSA) and their demands for:

1. A Full-time Tenure-track Umoja Counselor
2. Support and visibility for our Black students/a safe physical space for our Black students
3. An Official Black Student Union (BSU)
4. The establishment of budgetary support for all programs directly affecting Black students
5. Securing Dr. Joy DeGruy as an Opening Day speaker
6. Recruitment of Black students, staff, and faculty
7. Increased opportunity for Black staff professional growth and advancement
8. Support and maintenance of established Black studies courses

In Solidarity,

De Anza College Academic Senate Executive Committee