

Resolution Condemning the Disparate Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

Whereas, the San Diego State University Senate abhors the catastrophic impacts that the COVID-19 virus is having on individuals and communities across the U.S. and denounces the racism associated with it,

Whereas, for weeks at the beginning of the viral outbreak in the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other public health and government entities failed to report data on racial disparities in mortality, morbidity and other health and economic outcomes from the virus until pressed to do so, obscuring the disproportionate impact on people of color. This is an historical pattern that harms and further marginalizes ethnically diverse individuals and communities¹,

Whereas, the COVID-19 mortality and morbidity rates of African American and Latinx people are dramatically out of proportion to their numbers in the U.S. Population². Scholars implicate the long-term, on-going consequences of discrimination and racism that impact their access to health care and insurance, and the stress from racism and discrimination that their impact health and well-being. These inequities resulting in higher rates of hypertension, heart disease and diabetes and having such underlying medical conditions can sharply increase the likelihood of death from the coronavirus. Other scholars cite environmental and structural issues including: low socio-economic status, living in overcrowded cities, working in vulnerable “essential” jobs that put them in closer contact with the virus³⁴. Ten percent of non-Hispanic blacks in the U.S. indicated that they have experienced at least one form of discrimination and unfair treatment due to other people thinking they might have the coronavirus⁵. Islamophobia has also appeared in media coverage of the pandemic.⁶

¹ Kendi, I. (April 1, 2020). Why Don't We Know Who the Coronavirus Victims Are?

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/04/stop-looking-away-race-covid-19-victims/609250/>

² *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases in the U.S.* Centers for Disease and Prevention:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/04/stop-looking-away-race-covid-19-victims/609250/>

³ *CDC Hospital Data Point To Racial Disparity In COVID-19 Cases.* NPR. (April 8, 2020):

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/08/830030932/cdc-hospital-data-point-to-racial-disparity-in-covid-19-cases>

⁴ *Structural Inequalities and Not Behavior Explain COVID-19 Racial Disparities.* (April 16, 2020). *Latino Decisions*

https://latinodecisions.com/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=COVID19&utm_content=COVID19%20CID_4cef465ab414e6dd7ae1049a9d3f3a2e&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Latino%20Decisions

⁵ Liu, Y and Finch, B.K.. (March 26, 2020). *Discrimination against Asian and black Americans rises during coronavirus outbreak.* PHYSORG:

<https://phys.org/news/2020-03-discrimination-asian-black-americans-coronavirus.html>

⁶ Khalid, W. (April 19, 2020). *Corporate News Coverage of the Pandemic Is Rife With Islamophobia.*

<https://truthout.org/articles/corporate-news-coverage-of-the-pandemic-is-rife-with-islamophobia/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=71649a96-ad00-4169-afc2-bb1b572e3345>.

Whereas, the San Diego State University Senate reaffirms its commitment to “Freedom from discrimination, harassment, and violence against persons or property is a basic right and is requisite for learning. Freedom of speech shall be protected. By the same token, the campus community shall denounce and confront acts of intolerance, abusive behaviors, and the beliefs and past events that have separated us as a people.”⁷

Therefore, be it resolved that the SDSU University Senate urge CSU Chancellor Timothy White, the CSU Chancellor’s Office, the Academic Senate of the CSU, President de la Torre, the SDSU Administration and Auxiliaries, the SDSU Student Government, appropriate Senate and campus committees, and all members of the campus community to support and, where authorized and appropriate, to enact the following:

1. Establish and/or refine systems that track the impacts of COVID-19 racism and discrimination of marginalized SDSU community members. Make regular reports to the entire community to raise awareness of these issues and inform plans for improving the SDSU cultural climate.
2. Continue to overtly denounce the racism directed toward Asian American, African American, Latinx and other groups who are being assaulted by xenophobic and racist harassment and hate crimes.
3. Examine current policies and initiatives regarding these issues and revise them to make them more effective in achieving the values and commitments in the diversity statement.
4. Develop a feedback-informed culture that seeks feedback from marginalized individuals and communities and proactively work to address, remediate and develop processes and procedures that eliminate these ongoing forms of discrimination and racism. The SDSU University Senate will work in solidarity with the administration and SDSU community to support and protect these oppressed groups.

Resolved that, this resolution be distributed to the President of San Diego State University, CSU Chancellor, CSU Board of Trustees, Academic Senate of the CSU, CSU Campus Senate Chairs, California Faculty Association (CFA) Statewide President, San Diego State University Chapter President, California State Student Association, AS President of San Diego State University, California U.S. Senators, and members of Congress representing San Diego County.

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Consultation with: California Faculty Association, SDSU Chapter

⁷SDSU University Senate Diversity Statement. <https://diversity.sdsu.edu/about/statement>

Recommended for approval by:
SDSU University Senate Officers
SDSU Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee