

Statement from the

Faculty Senate Executive Board

June 8, 2020

The Faculty Senate Executive Board stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, and with all those peacefully protesting anti-black racism and police brutality. We are outraged by the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others at the hands of law enforcement, as well as the continued use of state violence against those demonstrating peacefully for change. This violence reflects this country's long history of oppression and systemic racism. We reject the policies and rhetoric that are being used to further entrench systemic divisions and inequalities in our society. We know that racial injustices persist not only in our society in general, but also in our own campus community. The disproportionate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on communities of color has only further revealed the persistence of economic and social injustice.

As campus leaders, we commit ourselves to advocating for an equitable and just society, and we recognize that words are not enough. We must listen to, and learn from, our colleagues and students of color. We need to reexamine our own TCNJ community, and our own selves, to recognize structures and attitudes that contribute to the propagation of racism and inequity. Critical self-reflection is prerequisite to real change. Only then can we work together to advocate for the structural changes that will help us to build a more equitable and just community.

We believe that, through a broad coalition with other stakeholders, higher education can facilitate the kinds of social changes our country needs, to challenge systemic violence, educate against racism and oppression, and provide opportunities for open discourse for all community members about how best to achieve these transformations. As the elected representative body of the faculty, the Faculty Senate is positioned to take a leadership role in facilitating this important work on our campus. This Fall, the SEB will ask the Senate to develop an action plan to address equity and inclusion in teaching and learning, working with our campus partners in the Division of Equity and Inclusion, the Campus Diversity Council, Student Government, and Staff Senate. As recent events have shown, we have a lot of work to do.

We stand with all those working in the ongoing struggles for dignity, equality, and justice.