



# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

June 2, 2020

UTEP students:

It is with a heavy heart that we address our student body. As many of you know, there was an incident of injustice in Minneapolis, Minnesota last week. On behalf of the UTEP Student Government Association (SGA), we would like to extend our condolences to the family and loved ones of Mr. George Floyd, who lost his life on Monday, May 25th, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Our team in SGA, in consultation with Black Student Union (BSU) and other student leaders, believe it is imperative that we shine a light on the issue at hand. We believe this is systemic racism. Incidents, such as the police interaction with Mr. Floyd, happen far too often. We condemn this and all acts of hate and racism both inside and outside our community.

As the Student Government Association, we are committed to be a support for all our peers. We understand that remaining silent on an issue of this magnitude is irresponsible. Just because we are not physically on-campus together does not mean that we cannot stand united virtually for justice, equality, and dignity. We encourage all students, faculty, and staff to speak out against any and all injustices. We must do better; we must be better.

We desire to be transparent in our commitment to ensure that we create a campus community where all students are protected from any acts of racism or oppression. We are committed to working alongside the Black Student Union and various campus departments, student organizations and campus administrators on the following three initiatives:

1. **Panel Discussion:** Support The Student Engagement and Leadership Center This Matters: Embracing equality, diversity, and inclusivity through constructive conversations panel discussion. A conversation about racism and injustice in the USA today and Black Lives Matter on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 12PM.
  - Our goal is to continue to allow for students to learn, express emotions, and feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions. SGA & BSU currently are working with a team in the Dean of Students Office and the Student Engagement and Leadership Center to organize more events.
  - We hope this might be a first step in helping provide additional training and resources to UTEP students about diversity and inclusion. It is our hope for SGA, through a discussion with our Senate, to allocate some additional financial resources to facilitate more programming, training, and support for students for equity and diversity.
2. **Additional Training for Faculty & Staff:** Work with UTEP administration to implement a more effective process to provide equity and diversity training for ALL faculty and staff.
3. **Student Equity Resources:** Provide the student body with resources available to them regarding equity and inclusion without fear of retaliation.

Your safety and security are important to us. We encourage students who are feeling triggered or affected by this latest incident, please contact the UTEP Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 915-

747-5302 or utilize the same number after hours to access the Miners Crisis Talk Line. The Miners Crisis Talk Line is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Additionally, if you or another student has experienced or witnessed any form of discrimination, here is a list of UTEP campus departments where you can seek resources and/or discuss your concerns:

- **Equal Opportunity Office**  
<https://www.utep.edu/eoaa/>  
915-747-5662
- **Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution**  
<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/>  
915-747-8964
- **Dean of Students Office**  
<https://www.utep.edu/dos>  
915-747-5648

We will continue to support students by addressing inequities in an effective and appropriate manner. Please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance or to communicate your concerns. You can communicate with us on social media or email us at [sga@utep.edu](mailto:sga@utep.edu).

Sincerely,

Jessica Martinez  
President  
Student Government Association

Dominic Kelly  
Vice President for Internal Affairs  
Student Government Association

Austin Stephens  
Vice President for External Affairs  
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