

# FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–04

## Addressing Institutional Racism in Law Enforcement

*Introduced at the request of Danielle Alsandor, Chris Barrett, Sarah Becker, Dana Berkowitz, Wesley Church. Kenneth Fasching-Varner, Stephen Finley, Deborah Goldgaber, Angeletta KM Gourdine, Katherine Henninger, Joyce Jackson, Catherine Jacquet, Touria Khannous, Catherine Lemieux, Michelle Livermore, Elaine M. Maccio, Michelle Massé, Bryan McCann, Sulagna Mishra, Roland Mitchell, Laura Mullen, Solimar Otero, Tim Page, Loretta Pecchioni, William Saas, and Mi Youn Yang*

**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 States<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, communities of color are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system<sup>5</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, students, staff, and faculty of color experience similar racial injustice on their own campuses<sup>6</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, members of the campus community are called on to “advance justice, equality, compassion,” and “engage as a citizen,”<sup>7</sup> 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<sup>8</sup>,” 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 America<sup>9,10,11,12,13</sup>.

**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”<sup>12</sup>

- “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”<sup>13</sup>
- “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”<sup>12</sup>
- 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

<sup>1</sup> Associated Press. (2014, August 10). *Killing of black Missouri man, Michael Brown, draws criticism*. Retrieved from Newsday website: <http://web.archive.org/web/20140812225959/http://www.newsday.com/news/nation/michael-brown-s-fatal-shooting-by-police-sparks-outcry-1.9018258>

<sup>2</sup> Pearson, J. (2014, August 1). *Autopsy: Police chokehold caused NYC man’s death*. Retrieved from Associated Press website: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/medical-examiner-says-chokehold-police-officer-caused-death-nyc-man-ruled-homicide>

<sup>3</sup> Gillispie, M. (2014, November 26). *Video: Cop shot boy seconds after encountering him*. Retrieved from Associated Press website: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/061a9a03f97c48ad8ea68a83635b96ed/cleveland-release-video-boy-shot-officer>

<sup>4</sup> Associated Press. (2014, November 24). *Medical examiner rules Akai Gurley shooting was a homicide*. Retrieved from The Grio website: <http://thegrio.com/2014/11/24/akai-gurley-homicide/>

<sup>5</sup> Warde, B. (2013). Black male disproportionality in the criminal justice systems of the USA, Canada, and England: A comparative analysis of incarceration. *Journal of African American Studies*, 17(4), 461-479. doi:10.1007/s12111-012-9235-0

<sup>6</sup> Schmidt, P. (2015). Campus police departments struggle with issues of race. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 61(17), Retrieved from <http://chronicle.com/article/Campus-Police-Departments/150903/>

<sup>7</sup> LSU Student Advocacy and Accountability. (n.d.). *Commitment to community*. Retrieved from <http://saa.lsu.edu/commitment-community>

<sup>8</sup> LSU Office of Academic Affairs. (2013). *Equal opportunity policy*. Retrieved from <http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/policiesprocedures/policies-procedures/1/>

<sup>9</sup> Abreu, V., Adams, C., Agyeman-Budu, K., Ahern, H. J., Ahsan, S., Aiello, A.,...Ziv, N. (2014). *Members of Fordham Law community issue statement regarding Michael Brown and Eric Garner*. Retrieved from Fordham University website: <http://law.fordham.edu/34398.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Abichandani, D., Abrams, K., Adams, J. E., Alaji-Sabrie, A., Alba, K., Alexander, A.,...Zimmerman, S. (2014). *Faculty and staff statement on Brown and Garner cases*. Retrieved from University of California at Berkeley website: <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/18086.htm>

<sup>11</sup> Anderson, R., Austin, D. S., Bartholomew, T., Bolling, N., Brown, J. R., Jr., Carroll, S. M.,...Webb, L. Ferguson statement. Retrieved from University of Denver website: <http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/rocky-mountain-collective-on-race-place/ferguson-statement>

<sup>12</sup> Alburges, M. G., Allen, H., Alonzo, D., Alzuru, M. T., Anderson, R., Babcock, M. K.,...Zweben, A. (2014). *Black lives matter: Statement from the Columbia School of Social Work community*. Retrieved from Columbia University website: <http://socialwork.columbia.edu/news-events/black-lives-matter-statement-columbia-school-social-work-community>

<sup>13</sup> Yoshioka, M. R., Kang, H.-K., Newdom, F., & O'Neill, P. (n.d.). *Our anti-racism commitment: Understanding Ferguson, Missouri*. Retrieved from <http://www.smith.edu/ssw/docs/fergusonstatement.pdf>