



Mean Green Family,

As we continue to mourn the lives of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Darius Tarver, and the countless other Black individuals that were taken by white supremacists; the Black Student Union would like to extend our condolences and recommend resources to get us through this difficult time.

Year after year, new videos surface of unarmed black individuals being murdered at the hands of law enforcement across the United States. We hope that these videos serve as a reminder to our community that we have a long journey ahead until we have achieved equity and justice for Black people in the United States. We must continue to come together as a community to demand, not just tolerance, but respect. We stand with everyone that is speaking out about the racial injustices and we will continue to uplift and advocate for you.

The lackluster response from UNT administrators including President Neil Smatresk is asinine. We, The Black Student Union, DEMAND swift and immediate action be taken. In the midst of COVID-19, which is disproportionately impacting the Black community, we have not forgotten the demands that we previously requested following the racist incident last November. Those demands have been stated and have yet to be fulfilled:

- 1) We DEMAND the UNT System creates and enforces comprehensive racial awareness and inclusion curriculum throughout all campus departments and units, mandatory for all students, faculty, staff, and administration. This curriculum must be vetted, maintained, and overseen by a board of students, staff, and faculty of color.**
- 2) We DEMAND the university will institute a mandatory cultural competency course required of all students either in a first year seminar or a stand alone course integrated within Orientation and Transition Programs.**
- 3) We DEMAND the university will create a specific outline to address diversity and inclusion practices in the strategic plan that will increase retention rates for marginalized students, sustain diversity curriculum and training, and promote a more safe and inclusive campus.**
- 4) We DEMAND the university requires all members of the UNT Police Department to go through implicit bias training to prevent any future instances of police brutality as we have seen recently with the unlawful detention of UNT student Jekhari Williams, a member of our Black community.**
- 5) We DEMAND the university will allocate new MS/HSI financial resources towards the expansion of the multicultural center and the entirety of the Division of Equity and Diversity. We believe our students deserve a building just like the Greek Life Center to accommodate the needs of individual minoritized groups.**

- 6) We DEMAND The University of North Texas will increase the percentage of Black, Brown, and other marginalized identities among the faculty and staff campuswide to match the demographic representation of our student population.

With these tragedies affecting our community, we also encourage everyone to utilize the resources that are available:

Ways to Support the Fight Against Police Brutality include, but are not limited to:

- Recording Acts of Police Violence
- Attending Protests Against Police Brutality
- Writing an Email or Calling the Offices of Attorney Generals, District Attorneys, and the Department of Justice to Demand Charges Be Brought Against Perpetrators
- Donating to Activist Organizations (links attached to post)
- Speaking Out Against Racial Injustices Within Your Community

The Black Student Union will continue to make the University of North Texas a community of openness and a place where our members can speak their minds and emotions freely with no fear of being silenced or disrespected.

We will continue to give our members resources and support throughout the next few months and foster new standards of what BLACK means at UNT.

It's time for the "thin blue line" to stop ending in a pool of red blood.

Respectfully,

The UNT Black Student Union Executive Board

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