



TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee
RE: Resolution: Racial Equity and Social Justice Curriculum
DATE: 186th Plenary, October 15-17, 2020
LOCATION: Online
RESOLUTION #: 186-01-1
VOTE TALLY: For: 45 / Against: 0 / Abstain: 1

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS the SUNY Board of Trustees September 10, 2015 Resolution “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy” desires to make “SUNY the most inclusive higher education system in the country,” and states within the Guiding Principles that “SUNY’s statutory mission makes clear its responsibility to provide the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population of New York State”; and

WHEREAS consistent with that commitment, the UFS Committee on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity is charged to “concern itself with issues pertaining to equity, inclusiveness and access, as they are reflected in the curriculum, student body and personnel of the State University”; and

WHEREAS the recent killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd and many others by police have once again highlighted racial inequities in policing and the criminal justice system in the United States, and the COVID-19 pandemic has affected BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color) communities in disproportionate rates, demonstrating the racial inequities in our health care and education systems; and

WHEREAS in a nation that has for centuries struggled with issues of racial inequity and injustice, and because many students do not have adequate knowledge of BIPOC history and the policies that contributed to racial inequity, SUNY campuses serving New York’s diverse communities have a responsibility and opportunity to help dismantle systemic racism and build racial equity and social justice.

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UFS calls upon campus governance bodies to work with those in charge of curriculum to develop and implement (or expand upon) courses or course content that focus specifically on issues of Racial Equity and Social Justice (in addition to other courses focusing on the broad category of Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UFS calls upon campus governance bodies to work with those in charge of programming to develop and implement (or expand upon) Racial Equity and Social Justice co-curricular or extracurricular programming consisting of forums, workshops, guest lectures, etc. open to and inclusive of the entire campus community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to educate all our undergraduate as well as graduate students, faculty, staff, and administrators on the workings and impact of systemic racism, UFS calls upon

campus governance bodies to develop strategies to maximize participation in the academic curriculum on Racial Equity and Social Justice as well as in the activities of the all-campus programming on the subject.

BACKGROUND:

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. (2015, September 10). Retrieved from https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=804
2. SUNY. (2019). Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee. Retrieved from <https://system.suny.edu/facultysenate/committees/inclusion/>
3. Edwards, Frank, et al. "Risk of Being Killed by Police Use of Force in the United States by Age, Race–ethnicity, and Sex." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - PNAS*, vol. 116, no. 34, 2019, pp. 16793–98, doi:10.1073/pnas.1821204116. <https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793>
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/race-ethnicity.html>
5. "UFS Statement on Racial Equity and Social Justice", June 12, 2020. <http://www.sunyuufs.us/bulletin>
6. "During the state standards analysis, CBS News found that seven states do not directly mention slavery in their state standards and eight states do not mention the civil rights movement. Only two states mention white supremacy, while 16 states list states' rights as a cause of the Civil War." <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-history-how-teaching-americas-past-varies-across-the-country/>
7. McNutt, Marcia. "Science and equality of opportunity", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, National Academy of Sciences. Jul 2020, 117: 28, pp.16090-16091; doi: 10.1073/pnas.2011794117 <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/28/16090.full>