



June 3, 2020

To the Florida State University Student Body and the Tallahassee Community,

We, as the leaders of the Executive Branch and representatives of the Student Body, stand in solidarity with marginalized communities as we have witnessed instances of injustice that has affected the Black and Pride Community. We mourn the losses of our fellow Americans and strongly believe that the senseless deaths of individuals like Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor must stop. We have experienced similar issues here in Tallahassee following the deaths of Mychael Johnson, Tony McDade, and Wilbon Woodward where numerous arrests have escalated into killings. Recently, we have seen members of the Tallahassee community and students of Florida State University express their emotions and desire to ensure Tallahassee is undeniably safe for all citizens.

It remains our priority to ensure student voices are heard and acted upon. The mission of the FSU Student Government is to provide representation, services, and advocacy to ALL students regardless of race, religion, or sexual orientation. We intend to uphold these principles as we speak out against injustice in our community and elevate a platform for others to do the same.

At Florida State University, we pride ourselves on our shared commitment to cultivate a diverse and inclusive campus. Part of this commitment requires us to come together as one community and speak up when injustices occur, act when necessary, and provide support to those students who have been impacted. Over the past few days, we have been heartened by the outpouring of support and response from student leaders and organizations across campus. As Supreme Court Justice Brandeis once said, “sunlight is the best disinfectant.” We expect and will continue to advocate for transparency and justice. We urge all students at Florida State University to continue educating themselves on this topic, while being able to have open conversations to move forward together, not only as a student body, but also as a society.

Within our roles of leadership, we are doing the following:

1. We are planning a community vigil including students from FSU, FAMU, and TCC, and members of the Tallahassee community to remember and mourn the lives lost.
2. We have spoken to FSU’s Administration about serving as a liaison between the Tallahassee and FSU Police Department to have a sit-down discussion so we can express concerns, get answers, and mandate a plan to move forward.
3. We have reached out to the Mayor John Dailey’s office to start conversations to ensure students are represented as members of our Tallahassee community.
4. We will be coordinating with diverse student leaders from across campus to actively engage in discussion and to truthfully analyze this topic from multiple viewpoints.
5. We have and will continue to support and advocate fundraising opportunities for those directly affected by these deaths and local minority businesses in the Tallahassee community.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
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We encourage every student to be civically engaged members of their communities while using your first amendment right to speak out and be heard. We commend our students and alumni who are leading the peaceful protests and standing up for their beliefs. If you do decide to participate in any public protests, we recommend that all students adhere to all CDC guidelines and social distancing policies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with this encouragement, we want to ensure our complete support and respect for the Law Enforcement Officers who accurately fulfill their duties and support our community. During these times, it is necessary to acknowledge wrongdoing and stand hand-in-hand as we move towards a brighter future.

We also want to encourage students to utilize available resources such as the **University Counseling Center** and **report.fsu.edu** to report any instances of racism or discrimination you or someone you know may experience.

Seminoles, continue to uphold our values of Vires, Artes, and Mores during these troubling times. Live on with the UNCONQUERED SPIRIT as we stand up for what is right and just.

In Seminole Pride,

Jonathan J. Levin  
Student Body President

Nastassia A. Janvier  
Student Body Vice President

Christian T. Hall  
Student Body Treasurer

