



Resolution No.: 2020.03

Date Introduced: December 22, 2020

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ASMC Sponsor: Isabella Ernst, ASMC Director of Student Advocacy

Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of Moorpark College (ASMC) Board of Directors condemns the violent assaults and unlawful murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Emmett Till, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Botham Jean, Eric Garner, Michelle Cusseaux, Ezell Ford, Jacob Blake, Dominique Clayton, and Feras Morad, amongst countless other Black lives lost to racial violence;

WHEREAS, continued attacks on Black bodies are only the most recent examples of four hundred years of systemic racism and oppression against Black, Indigenous, and other people of color in the United States;

WHEREAS, this legacy of white supremacy and terrorism threatens the health and safety of students and therefore widens academic, opportunity, and retention gaps for Black/African-American, Indigenous, Native-American, Chicanx, Latinx, Latin-American, Middle-eastern, Asian, Palestinian, Armenian, other students of color and all other ethnic minority groups who are already disenfranchised;

WHEREAS, as student leaders, we have an obligation to serve Black/African-American, Indigenous, Native-American, Chicanx, Latinx, Latin-American, Middle-Eastern, Asian, Palestinian, Armenian, other students of color and all other ethnic minority groups; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this obligation is essential to advance our higher education system's goals and values of ensuring diversity, equity, equality, inclusion, and respect for all people;

WHEREAS, the ASMC Board of Directors recognizes the significant health damages racism has on African Americans, as described by a health publication from Cornell University which stipulated that racism "kills in obvious ways (e.g., acts of individual and police violence against BIPOC) and also by fueling more subtle socioeconomic conditions (e.g., inequitable access to education, housing, employment; bias in the judicial and criminal justice system) that, in turn, contribute to

serious health issues such as the increased risk of diabetes, stress, maternal mortality, hypertension, asthma, mental health conditions, and heart disease”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ASMC Board of Directors, in accordance with the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, declare racism a public health crisis and an enormous educational barrier to success;

RESOLVED, that the ASMC Board of Directors reaffirms its commitment to serving our students of color and exercising its role in affirming anti-racism through racial equity;

RESOLVED, that the ASMC Board of Directors work with the Moorpark College Black Student Union and college administrators to increase diversity amongst faculty, staff, and administrative members and promote the hiring of more Black individuals;

RESOLVED, that the ASMC Board of Directors work with the Moorpark College Black Student Union and college administrators to address the trauma students of Black communities have faced in addition to implementing and expanding existing support services, such as, EOPS, Umoja, counseling, peer-mentoring programs, among others;

RESOLVED, that the ASMC Board of Directors work with the Moorpark College Black Student Union and college administrators to ensure equitable student grievance processes and accountability of hate and racism - covert or overt- inflicted by any faculty, staff, administrative, or students on campus;

RESOLVED, that the ASMC Board of Directors pledge a commitment to work with the Moorpark Black Student Union and college administrators on dismantling systemic, institutional, and all other forms of racism by taking all additional, necessary steps to ensure inclusive and safe collegiate environments for Black students;

RESOLVED, that the ASMC Board of Directors work with the Moorpark College Black Student Union and college administrators to increase the availability and access of ethnic studies courses as well as diversify euro-centric curriculum in all pathways;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ASMC Board of Directors calls upon Moorpark College and The Ventura Community College District to educate its student body and employees on Black history, experiences, and issues through various means such as events, forums, and webinars; and

BE IT ENACTED, the ASMC Board of Directors will assist the Moorpark College Black Student Union and its Black/African-American community by using its time, energy, and resources;

BE IT ENACTED, that the ASMC Board of Directors will establish an annual ad-hoc audit committee in collaboration with the Moorpark College Black Student Union tasked to review, evaluate, and make recommendations on Moorpark College’s departments and services, thus supporting and advancing the mission, vision and values of the college;

BE IT ENACTED, the ASMC Board of Directors will collaborate with the Moorpark College Black Student Union to host two annual events: a town hall in fall semesters and a Black History Month Celebration in spring semesters;

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that the ASMC Board of Directors advocate for our Black students, amplify the voices of students, faculty, and staff of the African diaspora, and pledge to provide a supportive environment where students can openly discuss their experiences and needs.

Citations:

- <https://health.cornell.edu/initiatives/skorton-center/racism-public-health-crisis>
- <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/10/23/racism-fuels-poor-mental-health-outcomes-black-students>
- <https://newsroom.vcccd.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-6-Resolution-Affirming-our-Commitment-to-Student-Success-for-VCCCD-Students.pdf>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4194634/>

Date Adopted: December 22, 2020

Board Vote: 10-0-0; passed unanimously



David Katz, President
ASMC Board of Directors



Gasia Benlian, Vice President
ASMC Board of Directors