

Approved Resolution of the Faculty Senate of National Louis University

June 19, 2020

WHEREAS, we continue to witness the effects of racist hierarchies as an ingrained and historical facet of the American social order in recent killings of Black people, in particular the horrific murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Rayshard Brooks; and

WHEREAS, we must not remain neutral in such matters, because neutrality is itself a political act that helps to perpetuate such episodes of violence, as well as their more unseen and routinized antecedents, all of which directly or indirectly impact our institution, our colleagues, and our students; and

WHEREAS, such actions and sentiments do not seek to diminish struggles, discrimination, and biases faced by any other groups, but seek to recognize the interconnected ways in which racist hierarchies, their histories and continued currency, affect many aspects of our communities, including but not limited to education, public health, law enforcement, environment, housing, employment, generational wealth, and patterns of social, familial, and personal interaction and connection; and

WHEREAS, our University President, Dr. Nivine Megahed, has stated strongly, “The NLU family stands united against senseless acts of hate and the systemic racism that produces and perpetuates them.”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of National Louis University does unequivocally and forcefully affirm that Black lives matter and that we honor the contributions of Black faculty, staff, and students to NLU’s community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we strongly affirm and support the NLU Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council's continued work to investigate, collect and measure data, and develop actionable steps to combat institutional biases and inequities throughout the university; and be it further

RESOLVED that we endeavor to further these and other investigations, measurements, and actions through our governance structures and committees to dismantle the effects of systemic racism within our institution and individual context; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we commit to ongoing work in our positions as educators to examine our own biases as part of our professional growth in order to create and maintain a welcoming institution that empowers our students through education to build a just society.