



University of California Student Association  
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*Tw: Anti-Blackness, police violence, death*

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SAN JOSE, Calif.—In response to the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, David McAtee, Tony McDade, and countless other Black lives, and in response to police violence and militarization taking place throughout the country, UC Student Association President Varsha Sarveshwar released the following statement:

“On behalf of the UC Student Association, I wish to express my sorrow, anger, and frustration at the killing of so many Black people as well as the police violence that continues to terrorize countless more Black lives.

Anti-Blackness is an evil, pervasive, and violent force in our society, endemic not just to the U.S. as a whole, but to California, to the UC system, and to far too many non-Black UC students.

All non-Black students, myself included, must reflect critically on how we have perpetuated and benefited from anti-Blackness. That includes being candid about our failures as an organization, including the chronic underrepresentation of Black students on our board, the countless instances of anti-Blackness at our conferences and events, and our systematic inability to give the Racial Justice Now campaign the support and investment that it deserves.

We cannot continue this complacency, not when there is so much to do. Academic policies and practices that do not provide support and leniency to Black students must be dismantled. The prohibition on affirmative action and the lack of investment in outreach, recruitment, and retention efforts must be dismantled. The University of California Police Department—which continues to arrest, assault, and detain Black people with little to no accountability—must be disarmed and dismantled.

Yesterday, I submitted an urgent letter to UC leadership demanding academic accommodations for students, including default Pass/No Pass with no impact on major



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declaration or graduation requirements, lenient grading for assignments and exams, and the significant modification or cancellation of final exams, in light of current events. Our letter can be viewed here:  
<https://uca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/UCSA-Letter-Modifying-Undergrad-Instruction-June-1.pdf>.

In the coming days, I am speaking with current and former Black student leaders to identify specific demands to bring to the UC Office of the President and Board of Regents. We will work publicly and welcome accountability. We will not co-opt; we understand that the most important community organizing work almost never happens in student government. We must instead use our platform and resources to practice allyship every single day.

If you have capacity and are willing to speak with us, we want to hear from you. Please reach out with your thoughts, concerns, and questions at [president@uca.org](mailto:president@uca.org)."

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