

# UC SANTA BARBARA

Executive Officers 2020-21, Associated Students

Associated Students, University of California Santa Barbara CA 93106 as.ucsb.edu

Dear campus community,

Our hearts are with you all during this incredibly tumultuous time. We are enduring through a global pandemic, one of the worst economic recessions of all time, and the recent losses of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade. These were all human beings whose lives were cut short by state-sanctioned violence and the inaction of our legal systems to rectify the long standing abuse of Black bodies. We recognize that this racial violence is not a handful of isolated incidents by a few "bad apples," but rather part of an on-going pattern of anti-Blackness entrenched into police forces in the United States.

We would like to thank a few of the dedicated student organizers who have done their best to keep our campus community together during this challenging time. Fifth-year student Michael Sanders organized a march on May 30th, and the UCSB Pan Asian Network that assisted with the outreach and equipment for this event. In addition, we would like to thank the UCSB students from the Inland Empire that helped set up the social distancing tape on the grass during the speaking portion of the protest. This peaceful demonstration brought in close to 1,000 people from our UCSB and Isla Vista communities in support of Black lives here on our campus and across our nation.

We recognize the deep pain that our Black UCSB students must be feeling. Given the fact that CAPS is underfunded and therefore inadequately equipped to serve Black students, it would be inappropriate for us to push our Black students towards CAPS as the sole campus resource during this painful time. We need more Black psychologists on campus. We need more Black faculty and students. We need more than solidarity with Black people on this campus. We need action. We want you all to know that your A.S. Executive team was elected to steer our student government and campus in such a way that makes all Gauchos feel safe and welcomed. We stand in firm opposition to the racial violence and unchecked policing we have seen perpetuate itself in this country. We will not be silent, and we will not let Black students fight this fight alone. We will be taking concrete steps to address the issues of anti-Blackness and police violence on our campus and in our IV community.

## **Campus Policing Reform**

- We will be working with UCPD to make it clear that the lethal kneeling that we saw George Floyd's murderer execute on camera has no place on our campus.
- We will be putting in a formal request for less police presence in our day-to-day lives on campus, in Isla Vista, and at school events like concerts and sports games.
- We will be seeking to hold our local police officers to their oath to protect and serve through community-created training. We will hold space for students in our campus community to lead officers in training against systems like anti-Blackness.



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## **Academic Success for Black Students**

- We recognize how stressful and agonizing this time must be for our Black students, so we will be meeting with the Chair of the academic senate to ask for leniency for Black students during this time.
- Additionally, we will be asking for as many of the following options be given to Black students during the end of Spring Quarter:
  - o P/NP being an option after final grades come out
  - o P/NP being extended to all majors
  - Allowing for late work to be completed with reduced or no penalty
  - o Cancelling, postponing, or making final exams optional

We realize that this is by no means a comprehensive or final list of actions that we as your Executive officers can take. We would like to invite you all to talk to us and suggest further action. We want to maintain this open dialogue throughout the entire year, and serve you as a resource to achieve the goals within our community. The best way to get in contact with us is sending an email to <a href="mailto:president@as.ucsb.edu">president@as.ucsb.edu</a>, <a href="mailto:evpla@as.ucsb.edu">evpla@as.ucsb.edu</a>, <a href="mailto:internalvp@as.ucsb.edu">internalvp@as.ucsb.edu</a>, or <a href="mailto:prezident@as.ucsb.edu">prezident@as.ucsb.edu</a>. We can schedule time to meet via Zoom, or we can conduct dialogue over email.

Warm regards,

Daevionne Beasley Tianna White A.S. President Internal VP

Alia Reynolds Yasamin Salari

External VP for Statewide Affairs External VP for Local Affairs

Melissa Perez Student Advocate General

Ways to help the Black Lives Matter Movement:

- To Donate
  - George Floyd Memorial Fund: help fund funeral and burial expenses and to support George Floyd's children
  - o I Run With Maud: help Ahmaud Arbery's mother and immediate family
  - Minnesota Freedom Fund: support bail for individuals arrested while protesting police brutality

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- <u>Black Visions Collective</u>: Minnesota queer based organization focused on dismaneltling systems of oppression and violence
- Reclaim the Block: Coalition that advocates for and invests in community-led safety initiatives in Minneapolis neighborhoods.
- <u>Communities United Against Police Brutality</u>: 24 hour hotline to report any instances of police brutality in Minnesota
- People's City Council Freedom Fund: Los Angeles-based fund helping to pay for legal support, bail, fines, and court fees for arrested protesters in the city, as well as medical bills and transportation for injured protesters, supplies for field medics, and direct support to L.A.'s Black Lives Matter chapter.
- Silicon Valley Democratic Socialists of America Bail Fund: The Oakland/San Jose chapter of DSA is currently allocating donations to a temporary bail fund, as well as a COVID-19 aid fund.
- The Bail Project: With locations in Compton, Van Nuys, and San Diego, as well as offices or partnerships in cities from coast to coast, the Bail Project is one of the largest and most established bail funds.
- o ActBlue: Split your donation between 38 different bail funds
- Black Lives Matter: The national umbrella of the Black Lives Matter movement, donations to BLM go toward programs and actions across the country, focused on ending white supremacy and state-sanctioned violence.
- NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund: support their mission to arrest the other three cops involved during the murder of George Floyd
- <u>Colorado Freedom Fund</u>: Providing bail relief to protesters and other individuals across the state of Colorado
- Northwest Community Bail Fund: Providing cash bail to arrested individuals in the Seattle metropolitan area.
- <u>The Loveland Foundation</u>: support the access to mental health resources for Black women and girls
- Campaign Zero: support their 10 point plan to reduce police violence
- SNaPCo: Builds power of BLack trans and queer peopleto force systematic divestment from the prison industrial complex and invest in community support
- <u>Black AIDS Institute</u>: Working to end the BLack HIV epidemic through policy advocacy, and high-quality direct HIV services
- <u>LGBTQ+ Freedom Fund</u>: Posts bail for LGBTQ people held in jail or immigrant detentionand raises awareness of the epidemic of LGBTQ over incarceration
- House of GG: Creating safe and transformative spaces for community to heal, and nurturing them into tomorrow's leaders, focusing on trans women of color in the South
- Stream



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 For those who want to donate but are unable to do so, a Black creator, Zoe Amira has compiled an hour long video with art and music from Black creators. Stream from home, turn off ad blocker, and don't skip the ads, as that's where the revenue comes from. <a href="https://youtu.be/bCgLa25fDHM">https://youtu.be/bCgLa25fDHM</a>

## Petitions

- <u>Color for Change</u>: calling for the arrest of the three other officers present at the scene of murder of George Floyd
- <u>#WeCantBreathe</u>: calling on Mayor Mike Freeman to arrest all the police officers involved with the murder of George Floyd
- NAACP: calling for the appointment of an independent special prosecutor to investigate the mnurder of George Floyd