University of South Carolina Faculty Senate Statement Opposing Racism and Injustice

When events like the brutal murder of George Floyd undermine human dignity, unity, and singular devotion to justice, we, the faculty, stand in solidarity with Black students, coworkers, and community members in condemning systemic injustice and racism. We acknowledge our responsibility as educators and intellectual leaders to affirm and champion the fundamental rights and dignity of all persons.

We reaffirm our support of the values expressed in the University of South Carolina's Carolinian Creed and in the Constitution of the United States.

We reaffirm our commitment to countering anti-Blackness in all settings;

to safeguarding the dignity of all persons;

to respecting human rights, including those most fundamental rights to life and liberty;

to rejecting and discouraging bigotry while striving to learn from differences in people and embracing openness for the common good.

We reaffirm unwavering support for one another, those within and beyond the walls of the university; align ourselves with the highest of human ideals; and rebuke any behavior, regardless of intention, that would threaten the freedoms we value and defend.

We condemn police harassment, disparate enforcement, and brutality, wherever and however it is executed, but especially as it is used against people of color to maintain a culture of white supremacy.

We support the right to peaceably assemble and carry petitions of grievance to the government, and oppose, most vociferously, anyone who would undercut and subvert human and constitutional rights.

We, the faculty, reject injustice, in all of its forms and manifestations, and join with administrative, athletic and student body leaders in our commitment to building an **unequivocally anti-racist** community at the University of South Carolina.

The University of South Carolina, Columbia Faculty Senate, June 3, 2020

(*This version shows a correction to paragraph five, which previously read "men and women of color.")*