

Chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry - A Message of Support

June 2, 2020

Dear Members of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry,

I am writing now as Chair of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry to support all of you - our students, faculty, researchers and staff - during this extraordinary time. We all face another quarter ending under stressful and difficult circumstances. For our students, this means finishing their spring quarter courses unlike any other in recent times. For many of you, it means balancing your professional and family responsibilities while simultaneously dealing with emotional stress.

I hope all of you received the Chancellor's and other top administrators email on May 29th. This email states "Collectively, let us continue to work together for a more just, equitable and humane society in our service, activism, pedagogy, and community and collaborative efforts." The department is committed to supporting all of our students, faculty, researchers and staff and recognizes the significant additional stresses that underrepresented minorities and people of color face every day in this country. The shocking images and videos of multiple people of color being murdered will be forever etched in my mind. I applaud all of those who are pushing back against the institutional racism that exists in many sectors of our society including education, the justice system, healthcare and jobs. We are at a tipping point in our country's history and it is clear that far more must change, at both an individual and collective level, to make our country safe and supportive for every single person.

I want to hear from members of the department of what we can do to support our community and to make positive change.

With sincere regards,

Vicki Grassian
Distinguished Professor and Chair
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry