



Dear UC San Diego students,

Earlier today, Associated Students hosted a Zoom call so that our Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs could provide updates regarding the student advocacy on grading leniency that began yesterday. The space was then opened up to the community for folks to share their experiences and perspectives so that Associated Students could better understand what advocacy work needed to happen. At this time, several people on the Zoom call abused the space for dialogue and began calling out derogatory and racist names and words targeting our Black community members. This disgusting and appalling behavior led to the Zoom being closed temporarily while the security settings were adjusted. Once the adjustments were made, the meeting and the dialogue continued in a more secure manner- and one we hope felt safer for the community members present.

We apologize to every member of the community affected by the acts of hate that occurred during the Zoom call, and how they may have impacted members of the Black community at UC San Diego. We know that the creation of a safe space is essential to any movement that wishes to respect those who are discriminated against. Associated Students welcomes any affected party to reach out to our Executives. We want the Black community at UC San Diego to know that we will not stop fighting for everything that was discussed on the call in order to show, through action, how important their contributions were today.

We are extremely grateful for the members of the Black community who participated in this call and the allies who attended as well. We have taken many points from these conversations and will be prioritizing them in our advocacy efforts immediately.

We feel it is also our responsibility to inform how we and members of the UC San Diego administration are addressing this despicable act of discrimination and harassment that occurred this afternoon. The incident has been formally reported to the Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination (OPHD) and to the Chief Cybersecurity Officer. The new Director of OPHD, Michael Diaz, has been in touch with the Executive Director of Associated Students, Heather Belk. VC Pettitt, VC Satterlund, the Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, Dr. Juarez, and the Dean of Students for Warren College, Dean Kafele, met with the first reporting party this afternoon. OPHD will conduct a preliminary investigation into the incident to determine the identities of parties responsible. If you have information that will help with this matter, please send an email to OPHD@ucsd.edu. Associated Students will monitor the progress of this case and provide updates as we learn more about the investigation. We

want to reiterate that what happened today was unacceptable and we will work to hold the responsible individuals accountable.

We reject and condemn any statement or action made against our Black community.

Associated Students values student input and productive conversations. We recognize that engaging with the student body is essential to inform its advocacy efforts. Moving forward, we will work to improve meeting security and ensure that an incident like this will not happen again. Our advocacy will only grow. We will continue to outreach to all of our UC San Diego communities. We want to be a part of the change YOU want to see on our campus, our community and our country.

Sincerely,

AS President

AS AVP Academic Affairs

AS VP Campus Affairs

AS VP External Affairs

Becky R. Pettitt - Vice Chancellor-Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Alysson M. Satterlund - Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs

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