

June 3, 2020

Dear Psychology students,

The faculty and staff of our department want to reach out to express our support in light of the recent racial injustices. From the xenophobia and racially motivated attacks on Asians and Asian Americans exposed during the COVID-19 outbreak to the recent outright killings of black Americans (i.e., Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd), we grieve, are angered, and feel called to action. Individually, we have a diverse array of experiences and privileges that shape the way that each of us is affected by, processing, and responding to the current events. Collectively, we are united in our condemnation of systemic racism, our deep care and concern for our students, and our commitment to develop as individuals and a department to more fully embody the radically inclusive love of Jesus. We recognize that this work must start with a searching of our own hearts and that it must translate to action.

We humbly repent for the ways in which we have overtly or covertly caused harm, especially to our BIPOC students, faculty, and staff. We believe that the themes of overturning injustice and participating in the ministry of reconciliation are central to the Gospel and yet we know that we have individually and collectively fallen short in our unique roles to enact this work. For that, we ask for forgiveness and recommit ourselves to justice and reconciliation.

We are committed to addressing issues of systemic racism, discrimination, and injustice in our department. While we do not have the expectation that you (our students) have a responsibility of educating us, we do want to adopt a posture of listening to better understand your experiences and heed your concerns. As a small first step, we have created a survey for you to anonymously share your current needs, thoughts, and experiences. We are committed to listening, taking your concerns seriously, and to creating tangible action steps for our department based on your feedback. During this time we are especially attuned to BIPOC voices as we grapple with the deep pain of racism, but we welcome feedback from all students.

SPFC Diversity Committee has also released a statement that will give you some additional perspectives on our commitments. This document is currently posted on our website.

Finally, if any of you wish to talk to us personally, via phone or Zoom, about these issues, please contact us. We care about you and want to support you. We encourage all of us to find ways to act. Reach out, support one another, march for justice. Be Christ. And if you don't believe the Gospel, be that which you want to see in the world.

Much peace to you all.

Co-signed:

Dr. Phil Baker
Dr. Oscar Baldelomar
Dr. Tom Carpenter
Dr. Baine Craft
Dr. Paul Kim
Dr. Brittany Tausen
Dr. Jenny Vaydich
Dr. Marcia Webb
Brenda Baker