

## Updated: A statement from Faculty and Staff Senate

Staff Senate <staffsenate@uncw.edu>

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To: Staff <Staff@uncw.edu>

*This statement is being released on behalf of the Steering Committee of Faculty Senate and the Executive Committee of Staff Senate*

UNCW Faculty and Staff Senates unite with shared feelings of outrage, fear, and sadness. The recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many others, coupled with other incidents of inequality and ensuing violence serve as a stark reminder of the enduring racism in our country. We must stand in solidarity with our fellow students, faculty, and staff and protest in the face of police brutality and systemic racism. Furthermore, we must acknowledge the racism and the systems of oppression and white supremacy that this country was built on. We would be remiss not to acknowledge Wilmington's historical racial injustices towards the Black community, from the 1898 Coup to the 1971 Riots and the subsequent wrongful convictions of the Wilmington Ten.

In the coming days and weeks, our history would suggest that we will begin a return towards the familiar status quo. As faculty and staff of a university with a mission tied to diversity, equity and integrity, we must commit to not allowing this to happen. We must harness the energy of this moment and turn it towards advancing permanent racial and social justice. This will not be an easy task, and not one that can be individually achieved. We hope that you will join us in committing to this movement and in working together to promote lasting social and systemic change. Black Lives Matter.

In solidarity,  
Emily Morgan  
UNCW Staff Senate, Chair '19-'20