

June 3rd, 2020

President Green and the Vandal Community,

Faculty Senate Leadership, Staff Council Leadership, and the chairs of the Ubuntu Committee unequivocally condemn police violence and systemic racism. Further, we avow and recommit to stand with the members of our community advocating for equality and justice.

We reaffirm a promise to do what we do best: educate. The University of Idaho has as core values excellence, respect, and integrity. To meet these goals, we recognize the need for high quality education regarding systemic racism in American society as central to the University's curriculum and programming. We also promise to place central to our mission the cultivation of critical thinking skills and the ability to recognize fact from fiction, both which are desperately needed in our current political era. Finally, we recognize the dire need to extend and amplify marginalized voices in our curriculum, but also all areas of the university.

We further thank President Green for his statement reminding the community that the University of Idaho is dedicated to Diversity and Inclusion. Faculty Senate and Staff Council Leadership, along with the Ubuntu committee, also believe that diversity and inclusion are fundamental to the U of I.

We agree that the University of Idaho must remain committed to supporting diversity and inclusion not only through its policies and procedures, but through its campus and institutional culture. As part of this commitment we remain dedicated to recognizing the importance of students, faculty, and staff from historically marginalized communities as they overcome obstacles.

We look forward to working with you as a university community to commit to providing, expanding, and funding appropriate and thoughtful partnerships with current programming offices and maintaining and extending support to such programs that are devoted to increasing equity and diversity on campus. We are committed to ensuring the mental and physical safety for students, faculty and staff from historically marginalized backgrounds as they navigate their experience at the University of Idaho. We further are dedicated to empowering all students to understand often invisible structural forces in our society and to think critically about current events so that they can leave the University of Idaho as thoughtful, empathetic, and engaged citizens.

Sincerely,

Kristin Haltinner, Co-Chair of Ubuntu
Jan Johnson, Co-Chair of Ubuntu
Chad Neilson, Staff Council Chair
Diane McGarry, Staff Council Vice Chair
Terrance Grieb, 2019-2020 Faculty Senate Chair

Barb Kirchmeier, 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Chair
Russ Meeuf, 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Vice Chair
Francesca Sammarruca, Faculty Secretary