



Statement of the Governing Board in Response to the National Unrest Surrounding the Murder of George Floyd – June 4, 2020

The mission of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), in part, “...is to advance academic freedom and shared governance...and to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good” ([AAUP.org](https://www.aaup.org/), 2020). As members of the Academy, and our Nation, we were collectively outraged at the unconscionable excessive use of force by a member of law enforcement and the parallel failure of his fellow officers to intervene to stop this callous abuse of authority upon an apparently unarmed and compliant citizen.

While we cherish the rights and freedoms afforded to us in the United States as guaranteed by our United States Constitution, and protected in part by our members of the military, law enforcement, and all emergency first responders, we condemn the clear intentional disregard for human life displayed on May 25, 2020 against George Floyd by members of the Minneapolis Police Department. Whether racially motivated or not, this flagrant abuse of authority further exacerbates the divide between members of the African-American community and members of law enforcement throughout this Nation and around the world.

While the AAUP cherishes and promotes our members academic freedom both inside and outside of the classroom and through the voice of our research, we equally must condemn those who choose to capitalize on this national tragedy through ruthless violence upon persons and property. Our United States Constitution guarantees, in part, that government shall not be a party to “...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances” ([U.S. Constitution](https://www.uscourts.gov/constitution), Amd. I). With those freedoms, however, also comes the responsibility to act peacefully in the exercising of one's rights to engage in the same.

At no time since the founding of the national AAUP in 1915 has our mission “...to ensure higher education's contribution to the common good” ([AAUP.org](https://www.aaup.org/), 2020) been more important. Today, we pledge the enduring commitment of AAUP-UC to stand with our fellow human beings in condemning hatred, racism and violence against persons and property. We further pledge our enduring commitment to nurturing a culture of inclusiveness, openness, and peacefulness as we collectively strive to be kinder to one another in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges.

In Solidarity, the Governing Board of AAUP-UC,

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