

June 11, 2020

Dear Chancellor Block and EVC Carter,

We are writing as the Ethnic Studies leaders at UCLA in support of the call to act that you received from the Bunche Center for African American Studies and the African American Studies Department. We strongly urge you to heed this call. Across the country and our campus, urgent demands for racial justice – and particularly in support of Black life - are being made. UCLA is home to many of the most outstanding scholars of Black life and racial justice, and has the opportunity to proactively lead in putting forth a national agenda for social change. We encourage you to see these demands as an opportunity to lead, rather than a problem to be managed. We are hearing repeated calls from faculty and students for action rather than words to demonstrate that this campus believes that Black lives matter. The communication from Professors Lytle Hernandez and Hunter outline a clear path for moving a leadership agenda forward at UCLA, one that will doubtless have strong buy in from across campus. We hope that you will seize this historic opportunity to put UCLA at the forefront of scholarly action toward racial justice and in support of Black lives.

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