

Statement of Solidarity with Black Lives Matter

The recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Rayshard Brooks, Elijah McClain, Atatiana Jefferson, Sandra Bland, Ahmaud Arbery and so many others are the latest manifestations of a long history of white supremacy and racist state violence in the United States. We, the Organizing Committee of United Academics of Oregon State University, condemn the racist, white supremacist violence that terrorizes Black communities nationwide, and we grieve the many lives it has taken. We acknowledge that the [long history of white supremacy in Oregon](#) and the presence of [white supremacists in our community](#), on and off campus, present real dangers to Black students, staff, and faculty, as well as to other people of color, as [explained by Walidah Imrasha](#) in 2014.

We also recognize that our own university is deeply complicit in maintaining and perpetuating white supremacy by occupying indigenous land, policing our campus and community, failing to require anti-racism education and training, and dismissing social justice labors while perpetually rewarding those who ignore this work. As evidenced in OSU's [2019 report](#) on equity, inclusion, and social justice, Black, Latinx, indigenous and other minoritized faculty and students face multiple barriers of entry at our university, and do not find supportive, hospitable conditions for their retention, professional growth, and advancement.

We remember that in fall 2019, a Black OSU student [was assaulted and arrested](#) by an Oregon State Police officer near campus. The process of institutional response has since alienated that same student along with other students of color.

Now OSU prepares to [spend millions of dollars to establish its own armed police force](#) despite growing recognition that university and college police forces have historically been responsible for the [killing](#), harassment, and [racial profiling](#) of Black students, staff, faculty, and [community members](#) around this country. This includes the [murder of Jason Washington](#) by Portland State University campus police in 2018. The history of policing in the United States illustrates the emphasis on social control rather than control of crime. Policing institutions in the U.S. have actively resisted self-examination, and are primed to use excessive force with a legacy and contemporary culture of militarized racism that is at odds with democratic values.

To make serious progress in dismantling structures of white supremacy and ending our university's complicity in racist state-sanctioned policing violence, **we call upon OSU President F. King Alexander, the Board of Trustees, and administrators to heed and agree to the demands of the #DisarmOSU and #WeCanDoTheWork campaigns.** The administration must act on these demands and *invest* in programs that make OSU a safe and nurturing place for Black students, faculty and staff. Above all, the OSU administration and Board of Trustees must listen and hold themselves accountable to the investments demanded by faculty and students who have been criminalized and brutalized by police and other law enforcement agencies.

We make this call as part of our on-going support for the Movement for Black Lives. Activists and scholars associated with the [Black Lives Matter](#) Movement, through the [Movement for](#)