

Dear colleagues:

On Monday I met with faculty at an Academic Senate-sponsored open forum, and this message will recap the topics discussed and information shared.

We held Monday's meeting amid a national outpouring of grief and rage at George Floyd's senseless death, sentiments that have only intensified with the passing days and the compounding brutalities and injustices they've brought.

At a time like this, I'm more grateful than ever to serve a community committed to educational equity and social justice, and for the incredible people I work with in support of that mission. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking anew this week about "Relevant Education" and what it can and should mean in our world today. The rallying cry for the protests that launched the College of Ethnic Studies 50 years ago framed a vision of a university that both combats institutional and structural racism and prepares students to create different paradigms. In widely-documented police brutality that devalues black lives, in a Federal administration that fans the flames of racism, and in the increasingly disparate impacts of COVID-19 on our communities of color, the problems that our visionary students identified 50 years ago come into ever sharper focus and only grow in urgency.

As we all seek ways to channel grief and outrage into direct action and change, I want to call your attention to several channels:

1. In response to the brutal and violent events affecting members of our community here and across the country, and with specific regard to our Black students, faculty and staff, the Academic Senate has created a [forum](#) for comments, feedback, and suggestions for further action the Senate and university could consider taking. You can also find it by using your browser, navigating to [the Senate website](#) and signing into the forum link on the right using your SF State login credentials.
2. This summer CEETL is offering faculty the opportunity of 2- to 3- day engagement bursts with colleagues on topics such as trauma-informed pedagogy and equity and inclusion in online environments, with stipends for participants. Registration is now open for these [Pedagogies for Inclusive Excellence \(PIE\) Intensives](#).
3. With specific concern for the retention and support of faculty of color, the [Office of Faculty Affairs](#) has received a small grant to support chairs in mentoring workshops and a learning community designed to foster inclusive environments in departments, schools, and programs across all six colleges and the library. The "Equitable and Inclusive Departmental Cultures" initiative is in development and will launch in the fall, with stipends available to participants.

This month, as we bid farewell to students in a graduation like no other and send them into an uncertain world, the need for relevant education is stronger than ever. Clearly, we are the university that our world needs now.

May the summer ahead bring some measure of rest and rejuvenation to you and your loved ones.

Best wishes,  
Jennifer

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