

Title: Assembly Resolution to Enact Anti-Racist Change on Stockton University’s Campus, Beginning with Immediate Freeze on Campus Police Hiring

WHEREAS the state-sanctioned murders by American police of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Tony McDade, and too many other Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian Americans have reinvigorated the ongoing #BlackLivesMatter movement, begun in 2014, and

WHEREAS this movement has erupted into worldwide protests, with American protestors primarily demanding the state defund its racist, militarized police force, and

WHEREAS police force present at these protests continue to exercise excessive--at times even weaponized--force and continue to assault, attack, and murder Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in the US, and

WHEREAS the origin of American policing derives from institutions, such as slave patrols, that were meant to protect white supremacy, the history of American policing is the history of exercising white, violent control of BIPOC and poor and working-class bodies, and

WHEREAS the Stockton University Police Department is a part and continuation of that history, and

WHEREAS the history of American higher education is entrenched in white supremacy, with many institutions failing to racially integrate their student body until as late as the 1960s, and with the work of meaningful change still undone, and

WHEREAS Stockton University, from its founding in 1969 by a group that was almost exclusively white and male, plays an active role in this entrenchment, beginning with the choice to name the then-college after a slave-owner, Richard Stockton, at the height of the Black Liberation movement, and

WHEREAS Stockton University’s mission claims, “to develop engaged and effective citizens with a commitment to life-long learning and the capacity to adapt to change in a multicultural, interdependent world,” and

WHEREAS Stockton University, as a predominantly white institution, has consistently failed in that mission by subjecting its BIPOC students, staff, and faculty to micro- and macro-aggressions with little to no recourse, and

WHEREAS the Stockton University Police Department, since its inception in 1971, has played an active role in the above oppression, and

WHEREAS the Faculty Assembly recognizes that the hiring of more police during an unprecedented public health and economic crisis signals to our community that our students' education does not, in fact, come first, and

WHEREAS BIPOC faculty and staff have for too many years done the meaningful work of trying to make anti-racist change on campus, with task forces on bias incidents, sexual assault, and hate speech, with no action occurring as a result of their hard work, and

WHEREAS institutional initiatives have failed to make meaningful change, in some cases (such as "Bias Free Stockton"), often providing protection for perpetrators instead of victims, and

WHEREAS Stockton University has failed to defend and protect BIPOC in the face of attacks on their civil liberties, such as dismissing the use of racial slurs against BIPOC in classrooms and elsewhere on campus as "within the bounds of the university's [codes] of conduct," and

WHEREAS Stockton University has consistently under-funded the academic programs necessary to realize its mission of "diversity and inclusion," most notably Africana Studies, and

WHEREAS we as faculty recognize that so-called meaningful change cannot happen if we continue to engage in business as usual in our language, our institutions, and our policies; now therefore be it

RESOLVED THAT (#1) Stockton University's Faculty Assembly work to place an immediate hiring freeze on the Stockton University Police Department, with the understanding that this is only the first step toward a larger movement to defund the Department; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#2) the Faculty Assembly begins the hard and necessary work to decarcerate its campus; this includes, but is not limited to: defunding the SUPD, ending the lionizing of, and participation by, police in "Bring Your Child to Work Day" and other community-facing events, ending campus programming such as "Pizza With Cops," and ending increased SUPD presence at Board of Trustees meetings; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#3) the Faculty Assembly, rather than forming yet another task force, uses the existing reports from the task forces on Hate Speech, Sexual Violence, and Bias Incidents, among others, to push for intersectional, anti-racist policies on Stockton's campus; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#4) the Faculty Assembly, in adopting the recommendations of these task forces, adopt policies that protect BIPOC students, staff, and faculty from racist attacks, including, but not limited to, the use of slurs against their persons; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#5) the Faculty Assembly demands that the Stockton Board of Trustees Strongly condemn the flying or display of Confederate flag and other symbols of hate and racism; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#6) the Faculty Assembly charge the standing committees of the Senate to investigate and implement anti-racist policies for each area--ranging from Academic Policies to Research and Professional Development—and the University’s policies and procedures around recruitment and retention of BIPOC students, staff faculty, as well as the hiring and promotion of staff and administrators; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#7) the Faculty Assembly back an immediate push for two tenure-line faculty for Africana Studies for AY 20-21; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#8) the Faculty Assembly further insists that the University immediately begin to develop a Multicultural Center with a specific mission to promote healing, inclusion, diversity and multiculturalism for BIPOC throughout the university; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#9) the Faculty Assembly insists the Faculty Senate revise the general education curriculum to require substantial coursework taught or approved by Africana Studies that deals specifically with issues of systemic racial oppression and discrimination in the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#10) the Faculty Assembly demands that the Stockton Board of Trustees publicly commits to changing the name of the University in a timely fashion; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#11) the Faculty Assembly demand from the Stockton Board of Trustees a public statement in solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter, with the full understanding of what that means: a commitment to our campus; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT (#12) a copy of this resolution be submitted to the Provost, President, and the Board of Trustees upon passage, with an official request for reply on parts relevant to respective identified parties herein.

The resolution is inspired by a growing and crucial body of abolitionist literature, with largely black women scholars and organizers at the helm. This is by no means a comprehensive list, but in the spirit of scholarship and inquiry, we encourage faculty, staff, and students to begin learning more about this topic:

[Opinion | Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police](#)

The End of Policing, Alex S. Vitale [Verso](#)

[The Origins of Modern Policing](#)

[Abolishing Policing Means Abolishing Family Regulation](#)

[The Case for Prison Abolition: Ruth Wilson Gilmore on COVID-19, Racial Capitalism & Decarceration](#)

Are Prisons Obsolete?, Angela Y. Davis

https://books.google.com/books?id=_wZ35GI4itgC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false

[Why Are the Police Like This?](#)

“How Do We Change America?” Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-do-we-change-america?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=onsite-share&utm_brand=the-new-yorker&utm_social-type=earned&fbclid=IwAR3BJSaUeaMEBMD1GnJFX97OwPL-e_a_FK5puX-fytE3ttFv4r6Js8d4IyM