The Program of Political Science and Global Studies believes Black Lives Matter. Political Science and Global Studies are committed to Inclusive Excellence as set forth on our campus. We as individuals, as a department, as members of our communities, larger systems, and nation-states, commit to a mission “centered on the principles of constitutional democracy, inclusion, participation, and global citizenship” (mission statement of Program of Political Science, updated December 2019).

We recognize that individually, as an entity, and as part of larger systems, we have participated in reinforcing oppression and white privilege. Our future builds continuously away from injustice. Initial actions our program is engaging include and are not limited to:

1. Continuing our efforts to implement a high-quality program in Africana Studies;
2. Presenting and discussing the complete historical record regarding founders and traditional heroes of democratic institutions in our classes, including their deliberate and active engagement in racism and other forms of systemic, institutional, and individual oppression;
3. Teaching about the deep effects on contemporary life of colonialism and neocolonialism, and about the causes and effects of racism in societies around the world;
4. Committing as a faculty and staff to life-long learning in anti-racism and inclusion;
5. Engaging faculty and staff hiring and recruitment approaches that employ demonstrated anti-racist strategies, including those which aim to redress and repair legacies of economic and budgetary injustice;
6. Employing anti-racist strategies in our efforts to recruit students, including those which aim to redress and repair legacies of economic and budgetary injustice;
7. Dismantling current protocols for student ratings of teaching in response to overwhelming evidence of their role in reinforcing racism and other forms of oppression in institutions of higher education;
8. Active participation in related actions undertaken by and within California State University.

Our commitment to bending the arc of history towards justice stands as a perpetual endeavor on our part. The statement is, therefore, among the living documents present in the public sectors of democracies. Suggestions for additional efforts are welcomed and may be addressed to the chair of our program, currently Dr. Dana Lee Baker (dana.baker@csuci.edu or 360 989 8134).