June 2, 2020

Over the last few months, we have seen some of the best that this country can offer as people across the U.S. have come together to help one another as we fight this pandemic. During this time, we have also seen the ugliness of this country and how it continues to disproportionately affect people of color — namely, Black/African-American folks.

We have all watched as the lives of so many black individuals have been taken away in just the last few weeks. The Graduate and Professional Student Congress is heartbroken and angry. It is not enough to “not be racist” — we must take a stand and work to be “Anti-Racist.” The GPSC stands in solidarity with, but behind, our Black students, instructors, adjuncts, professors, administrators, staff, coaches, alumni, and friends. We unequivocally condemn racism — such as what has been recently displayed in the murders of George Floyd, Tony McDade, Sean Reed, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others — and recommite to doing the work necessary to unravel generations of domination and oppression.

While these murders have not been in our state or on our campus, they are still felt throughout our community and remind us of our own history. From Silas Hunt to the Little Rock Nine, Arkansas is no stranger, in particular, to the legacy of racism in schools and higher education. We must do better.

As fear and unrest burn through our country, we must stand together as Razorbacks and do the work to take care of each other. We must speak out against violence and injustice and listen carefully to how we can each continue to learn and grow. We know better than to turn our faces away from ignorance and understand that “advancing with truth as our guide” is not something we can do alone. Anything less is a weakness that Razorbacks cannot allow. May we each do all we can to make our campus a place of justice and equity so that all feel The Hill is their home. Black Lives Matter. Our Black Razorback Lives Matter.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of George Floyd, Tony McDade, Sean Reed, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery.

In Solidarity,

JD DiLoreto-Hill, President
Katherine Dzurilla, Vice President
Paul Bonney, Treasurer
Anthony (A.G.) Holdier, Secretary
Rachel Slank, President Pro Tempore

GPSC wants to graciously thank our ally and friend, Chantel Moseby, Asst. Director for RSOs, for her generous support in helping craft this statement.