



January 21, 2021

To the LSU Faculty Senate -

The LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus wish to express our support for the LSU A&M Faculty Senate Resolution 20-05: Confronting Anti-Blackness by Ensuring Undergraduate Access to Antiracist Curricular Offering. We strongly feel that the addition of this curriculum requirement will not only enhance the overall academic experience but will also make way for meaningful conversations and learning opportunities for undergraduate students.

In the wake of the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests, LSU publicly pledged its commitment to become a champion of inclusivity, diversity, and equity. This resolution will augment those efforts and will demonstrate a concrete step towards fulfilling that promise.

As the flagship university for the state of Louisiana, it is our duty to lead by example. The addition of AAAS 2000 as a required course will signal to our in-state and peer institutions that LSU is actively combating anti-Blackness in the classroom. Similarly, it will demonstrate to the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) members of our campus community that our commitment to community is more than a statement, it's an action.

It is impossible to become an anti-racist institution if anti-racism work is not part of the core curriculum. Nor is it possible to support LGBTQ+ people without an unwavering commitment to antiracism. Because we are a community that includes BIPOC, anti-Blackness is by definition an LGBTQ issue. The LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus implore our colleagues in the LSU Faculty Senate to support this resolution and live up to the values and ideals of our institution.

Sincerely,

Bill Mattera, President, LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus
S.L. Ziegler, Vice President, LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus
Samantha Baldrige, Secretary, LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus
Laurie Braden, Treasurer, LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus
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