

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Session 120

Date *August 20, 2020*



Submitted by Dalton Owens, ASUW Vice President

BOARD RESOLUTION 6.08: A RESOLUTION TO INSTITUTE THE DEMANDS MADE BY THE BLACK STUDENT UNION TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF EXPERIENCE OF BLACK AND BROWN STUDENTS ON CAMPUS.

WHEREAS: The ASUW Board of Directors recognizes that the University of Washington and other institutions across the country were not built to serve marginalized students, specifically Black students, and still to this day, institutions such as the UW do not serve Black students to the same capacity that they serve white students; and,

WHEREAS: Since its founding in 1968, the Black Student Union at the University of Washington has fought to make this campus a safe space for Black students. Founded on student activism, the BSU placed an immense amount of pressure on the administration, particularly President Odegaard who ignored initial calls for change, to meet the following demands:

1. “All decisions, plans, and programs affecting the lives of Black students must be made in consultation with the Black Student Union...
2. The Black Student Union should be given the financial resources and aids necessary to recruit and tutor non-white students...
3. We demand that a Black Studies Planning Committee be set up under the direction and control of the Black Student Union...
4. We want to work closely with the administration and faculty to recruit black teachers and administrators...
5. We want black representatives on the music faculty...” ; and,

WHEREAS: In addition to these demands, the BSU of 1968 demand that a “Negro Fund” to be started, and that \$50,000 be allocated to start the Black Studies program. It is because of the pressure put on by the BSU that we have so many institutional units, including the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity, the Ethnic Cultural Center, the Instructional Center and the American Ethnic Studies Department; and,

WHEREAS: The legacy of the activism incited by the UW Seattle BSU to pressure UW administration in 1968 is celebrated today and should serve as a reminder to the entire UW community to follow the lead of Black students’ demands in 2020; and,

WHEREAS: The overall demands put forward by the UW Seattle Black Student Union call for administration to:

1. Break all ties with SPD and other local law enforcement agencies
2. Disarm and divest from UWPD
3. Allocate funds to Black RSO's and the American Ethnic Studies Department
4. Hire more Black faculty
5. Increase the Diversity requirement and make African Studies a major
6. Remove statues and monuments of racist figures
7. Fund and expand mental health resources for all UW students ; and,

WHEREAS: According to The Daily's assessment of UWPD's 2019 Fire and Safety Report, "the UWPD maintains a close working relationship with the Seattle Police Department"; the departments "communicate regularly" at the scene of on-campus and off-campus incidents; detectives from both departments collaborate on joint investigations; officers occasionally have joint trainings; and the departments have written mutual aid agreements."; and,

WHEREAS: The violent nature demonstrated by the Seattle Police Department over the past years along with recent violent retaliation against social activist protests seeking to hold SPD accountable justifies identification of SPD as a direct threat to the wellbeing of Black and brown students on-campus; and,

WHEREAS: SPD remains under a federal consent decree after an investigation raised concerns about racially biased policing and the use of excessive force; and,

WHEREAS: As written of in The Daily, "Calls to disarm UWPD are familiar to those who were on campus in 2016, when a Seattle Central College student was arrested while on a tour with a Black academic adviser who told colleagues his students were [profiled and humiliated](#)." In this incident on March 6, 2016, Amman Girma, a Black academic adviser in the UW Department of Global Health, alleges he and students on his tour were racially profiled and held at gunpoint by an officer of UWPD; and,

WHEREAS: The arming of UWPD is unnecessary and excessive, resulting in a continuous state of fear for students who have sought out the University of Washington as a safe space to develop and educate themselves; and,

WHEREAS: The American Ethnic Studies Department, created in response to BSU demands in 1968 for a Black Studies Department, is still under funded today in comparison to most other

UW departments despite the significant role it plays in providing courses that satisfy student's diversity credit graduation requirement; and,

WHEREAS: As of 2018, 68% of UW faculty identifies as being white while only 1.7% of the staff identifies as being Black (Diversity Metrics Data Book by the Board of Regents 2018); and,

WHEREAS: Some departments have even less faculty diversity as compared to overall faculty statistics, meaning that students within such departments may spend a majority of their education at UW without diverse faculty; and,

WHEREAS: According to The Daily, "The push for the current three-credit diversity credit requirement, approved in 2013, was also a student-led effort. Today, the BSU continues to push the university to improve the diversity of its education, through demands such as increasing the requirement"; and,

WHEREAS: The current diversity credit requirement is 3 credits, a significantly lower credit expectation in comparison to other general education graduation requirements, which inadequately sets students up to enter their post-collegiate paths with appropriate diversity understanding; and,

WHEREAS: Statues like that of enslaver George Washington or supporter of Japanese-American internment Henry M. Jackson currently displayed at the University of Washington idealize and condone the racist history associated with these historical figures; and as stated by UW Seattle BSU, "Statues across the country of colonizers, slave owners, and confederate soldiers are a constant reminder of the trauma that Black and Indigenous people in this country have dealt with. We must stop glorifying these white supremacists."; and,

WHEREAS: The lack of an adequate amount of mental health caregivers on-campus has resulted in wait times of 3 weeks or more in order to receive a consultation, a resource that is especially necessary for students during times such as these where social injustices and global health issues have only further amplified the stresses related to being a college student; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THAT: The University of Washington acknowledges and implements the necessary steps to successfully apply the seven demands identified by the Black Student Union:

1. BREAK ALL TIES WITH SPD, both formal and informal in the form of contracts, agreements, and MOUs. We suggest taking the following steps:

- a. Immediately stop handing over people detained by UW Police Department to SPD custody.
 - b. Stop using SPD to respond to public safety needs, including referrals for welfare checks under the Safe Campus program.
 - c. Stop using SPD for additional security for any events, including sporting events, concerts, and ceremonies.
2. **DISARM AND DIVEST FROM UWPD.** Arming UWPD officers is excessive and unnecessary. Black students are already traumatized by the violence perpetrated against Black individuals by the hands of police. Arming the UWPD only puts Black individuals in constant fear, worry and frankly more at risk. The use of police dogs must be banned. Many communities of color in the US associate police dogs with the terror of state violence. We need to divest from UWPD and reallocate those funds into our community.
3. **ALLOCATE FUNDS TO BLACK RSO'S AND THE AMERICAN ETHNIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT.** Instead of spending a ridiculous amount of money on UWPD, the University of Washington should invest in departments and resources that cater to the needs of its Black students. It should not be students' jobs to spend out of pocket money to make other students more comfortable, and/or raise money for scholarships for their students. There also needs to be an increase in funding for the AES department. This would not only help students have more resources and help expand their learning, but increase the pay for the faculty who work in that department.
4. **HIRE MORE BLACK FACULTY.** According to the Diversity Metrics Data Book by the Board of Regents, as of 2018, 68% of faculty is white, while 1.7% is Black. This statistic is embarrassingly low for an institution that prides itself on diversity and equity. The demand for more Black faculty dates back to 1968, with the first year of the Black Student Union here at the University of Washington. Today, 52 years later, this demand has not only been ignored, but is still necessary with the growing population of the UW. The lack of representation of Black faculty not only prevents students from having role models who they can relate to, but it sends a subtle message that only white people are capable of teaching at a higher level, which is simply untrue.
5. **INCREASE THE DIVERSITY CREDIT REQUIREMENT AND MAKE AFRICAN STUDIES A MAJOR.** The current diversity requirement for UW students is 3 credits. Again, for an institution that prides itself on diversity, this is embarrassingly low. One 3 credit class will not provide students with enough historical background to enter the world an anti-racist. Students must be exposed to the atrocities that have been committed upon Black and brown folks, and how these communities are impacted to this day. Finally, African Studies should not only be an option for a minor, but a major. It is unjust that there is a major for Asian Studies, European Studies, and Latin American Studies, but not African Studies.

6. REMOVE STATUES OF RACIST FIGURES. Statues in place at the University of Washington are preservers of our dark past. The George Washington statue, in particular, symbolizes a man who owned over 300 enslaved Black people and profited from their labor. This is not a history that should be glorified and celebrated as it perpetuates white supremacy and preserves its historical imposition. Thus, the George Washington Statue, along with all others that symbolize racist figures, should be removed from the University of Washington.
7. FUND AND EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR UW STUDENTS. Currently, the waiting time to talk to a mental therapist can be more than 3 consecutive weeks. For Black students, the detriment of such a long waiting time is exacerbated by the severe lack of Black therapists, who tend to understand and empathize with their experiences. It's been shown that Black students feel more comfortable talking with Black therapists as opposed to non-black ones; how can one Black therapist be enough for the population of Black students at UW, and why should they have to wait for urgent mental issues? In addition, the students are limited from accessing mental health services as they are often costly and require insurance coverage, which may not be affordable for students. Thus, the University of Washington should expand and fund affordable services, along with hiring more Black therapists.

THAT: This bill be forwarded to the following individuals:

ASUW President, **Camille Hattwig**

ASUW Vice President, **Dalton Owens**

ASUW Finance and Budget Director, **Alece Stancin**

ASUW Personnel Director, **Gabby Rivera**

ASUW Communications Director, **David Frantz**

ASUW Director of University Affairs, **Clara Coyote**

ASUW Director of Community Relations, **Alexandra Schroeder**

ASUW Director of Diversity Efforts, **Rachel Smithers**

ASUW Director of Campus Partnerships, **Waleed Khan**

ASUW Director of Internal Policy, **Antonio Gonzalez**

ASUW Director of Programming, **Rahul Prasad**

ASUW Student Senate Speaker, **Lukas Illa**

ASUW Student Senate Vice Speaker, **Mustapha Kinstafa Sameteh**

GPSS President, **Aaron Yared**

ASUW Bothell President, **Shugla Kakar**

ASUW Tacoma President, **Vincent Da**

UW Student Regent, **Kristina Pogosian**

Provost Advisory Committee for Students Chair, **Sam Akeyo**

UW President, **Ana Mari Cauce**

UW Provost, **Mark Richards**

Mihret Haile

UW Board of Regents

UW Counseling Center

Every College Dean

UW Assistant Vice Provost for Enrollment and Executive Director for Financial Aid and Scholarships, **Kay Lewis**

UW Vice President for Student Life, **Denzil Suite**

Faculty Senate Chair, **Robin Angotti**

UW Associate Vice President for Student Life, **Glenna Chang**

HUB Director, **Justin Camputaro**

UW Manager of Student Success, **Sean Ferris**

UW Associate Director for Student Activities, **Rene Singleton**

UW OMAD Director, **Rickey Hall**

UW BSU President, **Mahilet Mesfin**

UWPD Interim Chief, **Randy West**

End

Presented to the ASUW Board of Directors for approval on August 25, 2020

Approved on August 25, 2020