

June 10th, 2020



To The UCLA Campus Community:

The horrific murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have exposed the systemic racism and injustice our Black friends and peers confront on a daily basis. While these issues extend beyond recent tragedies, the fraternity community's privileged ignorance at large to the prevalence and urgency of these problems has historically resulted in unacceptable silence. Over the course of the last two weeks, we have seen millions of people rise up and stand in solidarity with Black Americans, amplifying their voices, and joining the fight for sustainable change. IFC will no longer remain silent and firmly supports Black Bruins and the call for equity.

However, these words alone are not enough.

Any act of solidarity must begin with reflection. As an entire IFC community, we must recognize the role that historically white fraternities have played in perpetuating anti-Blackness. Early fraternal organizations actively excluded Black students, engaging in explicit systems of oppression and contributing to campus cultures that treated Black students unequally. Unfortunately, the story of UCLA's IFC community is no different. While IFC membership today includes students with a diverse range of racial and cultural identities, we must diligently acknowledge that our history is riddled with racial injustice. It is our duty now to actively combat these anti-Black attitudes and actions which are still perpetuated in fraternity life to this day. We as a community have failed to adequately recognize, condemn, and respond to these problems. This is unacceptable. The 2020 Executive Board accepts full responsibility for the pain IFC's inaction has inflicted on Black Bruins and communities of color. Moving forward, we commit to reforming our community so that we may fully represent the values our chapters espouse.

Words without action are meaningless, so beginning today, the IFC Executive Board pledges to take the following steps in an effort to foster accountability, fight injustice, and nurture a campus community and world where people of all backgrounds, especially Black students, feel welcome:

- Coordinate with UCLA campus resources in order to create IFC specific education and programming on the topic of race and fraternity life. These programs will be mandatory for all IFC members and will center around fostering productive conversations regarding racial injustice within the fraternity community.

- Develop and implement a plan to increase accessibility to IFC for students of diverse backgrounds. This will include the creation of a new executive role dedicated to diversity and inclusion which will serve as the primary advocate for students of color and lead an ongoing conversation among all chapters about race within IFC.
- Fund a new diversity-based scholarship which can be used for school related expenses or chapter dues, which disproportionately obstruct Black students and other students of color from accessing fraternity and sorority life.
- Research, write, and publish the history of UCLA's IFC community on our website, documenting past problems of racial injustice and sexual misconduct (which disproportionately affect Black womxn) along with our efforts to address these issues.
- Continue our community-wide fundraising campaign, which throughout the last week has raised over \$7500 for Los Angeles based Black advocacy groups. The IFC Executive Board is matching 1:1 donations from any chapters that donate to Black organizations.

These actions are a first step towards transforming IFC into a healthier and more inclusive space, but our work does not end here. As a community, we must listen to the perspectives of Black students, both those within our chapters and those outside of IFC. Only then can we amplify their voices, support the fight against racial injustice, and ensure that IFC's troubled past will not be its future. If IFC is to be a community built upon inclusion and accountability, we must fully commit to educating ourselves on racial injustice and engaging in tough conversations, both within and outside of our community. In order to foster greater transparency, the Executive Board will provide regular updates to the campus community on its short term and long term efforts. We hope that by recognizing the mistakes of our past and accomplishing our goals for the future, we will join the UCLA community in transforming our university and nation.

Sincerely,

Robby Newberry
President

Ethan Kaplan
Chief Justice

Jack Van Boening
VP of Media and Outreach

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