

A Statement of Solidarity by the Academic Senate of Cuyamaca College with our Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) colleagues and communities to stand against anti-AAPI racism;

Whereas, Cuyamaca College is located in San Diego County, which is home to 440,660 Asians, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, who represent one out of every seven residents and is the fastest-growing racial group in the County; and

Whereas, Cuyamaca College is an open, active, vital, equity-minded and anti-racist institution where each of us has the right to study and work in a safe environment free of racism, discrimination, intolerance, and violence; and

Whereas, the outbreak of SARS-Cov2 has been referred to as “Wuhan Virus,” “Kung Flu,” and “Chinese Virus” in public discourse, and this inflammatory rhetoric has stigmatized members of the AAPI communities, exacerbating the microaggressions and violence towards persons of AAPI ancestry; and

Whereas, the number of hate crimes and incidents – physical assault, vandalism, coughing/spitting, verbal harassment, shunning or avoidance, and refusal of service – against AAPI persons has increased nationwide. Between March and December 2020, 44 percent of nationally reported incidents took place in California as documented by Stop AAPI Hate’s press release dated February 09, 2021; and

Whereas, the “Model Minority Myth” by which AAPI persons are deemed self-sufficient and as such requiring neither assistance nor attention, and the resultant widespread gaslighting of anti-AAPI racism – ranging from incidents to violent hate crimes, occurring nationally – is a real threat at our campuses and work places.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Cuyamaca College has unequivocally affirmed that Black Lives Matter, and in their 400-year-long-struggle against systemic racism, we have recognized that societal structures expose racial and economic disparities that require substantive overhaul if we are to guarantee the well-being of Black people within our shared community, and that the AAPI community is in solidarity.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Cuyamaca College unconditionally condemns the aforementioned oppressive forces, and we further denounce xenophobia and anti-AAPI sentiment – the harmful rhetoric and racist actions arising because of fears of the COVID-19 pandemic – therefore, we urge the documentation and investigation of all reported incidents in order to promote respect and protection of the AAPI community.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Cuyamaca College affirms that the “Model Minority Myth” facilitates the interrelated phenomena of gaslighting and “racelighting,” by which those who are victims of anti-AAPI hate crimes are denied the seriousness of their criminal complaints, and those who are victimized remain unassisted under duress; therefore, the Academic Senate urges the acknowledgement of gaslighting, and the related “racelighting,” and its connection to lack of understanding and aid.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Cuyamaca College strongly encourages ongoing critical reflections, conversations, and intentional efforts within our institution – such as recognizing and addressing racial, social, and economic injustices and inequities, within the AAPI communities, thereby further humanizing those communities.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Cuyamaca College recognizes AAPI stories as conveyed by AAPI communities as they call upon municipalities, nations, and states across the United States to adopt similar commitments to combat anti-AAPI racism and facilitate AAPI inclusion.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Cuyamaca College concurs with the spirit and findings within: (1) the organization Stop AAPI Hate; (2) the City Council of the City of San Diego Resolution Number 313068, dated June 04, 2020; (3) the Presidential Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States, issued January 26, 2021; and, (4) AFT Local 1931 statement of solidarity with AAPI membership and communities passed on March 4, 2021.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Cuyamaca College encourages advocacy and collaborative efforts to protect AAPI residents and victims of discrimination and to curb hate acts related to COVID-19 for other groups, including, but not limited to, Black, Latino/a, Indigenous, Muslim, Jewish, and LGBTQIA+ communities, and people with accessibility needs.

Resolved, that the Academic Senate of Cuyamaca College calls upon its colleagues and constituencies to adopt similar commitments and stands in solidarity with our AAPI colleagues across our campus in denouncing anti-AAPI racism.