



June 5, 2020

Dear Members of our AU Miami Community,

We have all been shaken by the tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of some of those who have sworn to protect the law and the integrity of us all. This was a callous act of racism that unfortunately still exists in our country. We join our voices to those who protest peacefully and denounce such acts of violence against minorities. As an educational institution, we cannot keep silent at this time of civil unrest. This means that, even during this remote working environment, we must not avoid addressing the issues that are directly impacting our community and discuss them with our students, staff, and faculty.

At AU, we aspire to build better lives for ourselves and our community. We embrace our diverse staff, faculty and student population and recognize that only by interacting with, and listening to people of all races, backgrounds, ethnicities, sexual orientation, and abilities, can we truly understand and appreciate one another. We are committed to using our platforms to educate, inform, and inspire the public. We can only hope that our discussions can forge a greater appreciation of the complexities of racism and its manifestations in our society.

Those who protest peacefully and demand justice are exercising the rights granted by our Constitution and deserve our full support. However, we strongly reject those who use the suffering and mourning of the community to commit acts of violence, looting, and destroy property.

These events have occurred at a time when people are facing the many challenges posed by the coronavirus, either financial, psychological, or related to health and care of children and/or at risk family members. This is yet another issue that we will have to embrace and find a way forward.

In the weeks and months ahead let us deal with these issues with honesty and love. Let us remember the message of our founder Dr. Carlos Albizu Miranda: "Love reaches beyond knowledge". Let's look to the future to use our existing civil processes to bring change on how we deal with these issues and how we, as a community, can move forward.

Please do remain safe, practice social distancing and stay engaged!

All the very best,

*Tilokie*

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