To the Cal Poly Community:

As you know, the jury in the George Floyd murder trial has returned its verdict. The jury found that former police officer Derek Chauvin is guilty of all the charges against him, including the charge of second degree murder.

Regardless of your views of the verdict, a number of things are clear – this case has elicited a good deal of anger and sadness that did not end at the conclusion of this trial, and the issues of policing, race and social inequality that surrounded this case will continue to be a focal point of social discourse and efforts for social change.

For nearly a year, from the point of his death until today, we have watched the video and media coverage of George Floyd lying in the street; we witnessed the mass protest movements that arose; and many of us followed the trial from opening to closing statements. Thus, there is much hurt and grief that we have seen and endured.

As campus leadership, we acknowledge and share in the pain many are feeling. As a community, we want to ensure you know where and how to access support and resources for self-care. As an educational institution, we encourage you to seek out and establish opportunities and spaces for critical discourse, examination and learning.

We ask that this moment in our national history be the occasion for an experience of radical empathy for those who are hurting, and for continued efforts to dismantle inequality. Clearly our society is not yet what it can be, must be and will be. However, we hope this moment will serve to catalyze an ever-stronger commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and a recognition of the urgency to fully achieve these goals.
In response to this verdict, tomorrow (Wednesday) between 11 am and noon, The Black Academic Excellence Center (BAEC) will be inviting Black students to be in community in a discussion that centers on healing in this moment, *The Green Table Talk: The Space to Breath*. This dialogue will center healing and collective resilience. Also, Wednesday between 4 and 5:30 p.m., The Multicultural Center (MCC) invites the community to discuss how allyship looks to the Black community, pre-and-post this trial. This discussion will happen over Zoom.

Both 2020 and 2021 have been extraordinarily difficult years. It will take time to process and to heal. Please show each other the Love, Empathy and Respect that every member of our community deserves, and please know that we are here for you, whether you are a student, faculty member or staff:

- [24/7 Counseling Support](#)
- [Student Diversity and Belonging (SDAB)](https://culture.calpoly.edu/VirtualResources)
- [Office of the Dean of Students](#)
- [Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs](#)
- [Employee Assistance Program](#)

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Armstrong, President

Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Cynthia Vizcaino Villa, Senior Vice President, Administration and Finance

Bill Britton, Vice President ITS and Chief Information Officer (CIO)

Jessica Darin, Interim Vice President University Development and Alumni Engagement (UDAE); and Chief of Staff

Keith Humphrey, Vice President, Student Affairs

Denise Isom, Interim Vice President, Office of University Diversity and Inclusion (OUDI)

Al Liddicoat, Interim Executive Director of Human Resources and Academic Personnel; and Interim Dean of OCOB

James Maraviglia, Interim Vice President, Strategic Management

Chris Murphy, Vice President, University Communications and Marketing

Cody VanDorn, Chief Executive Officer, Cal Poly Corporation (CPC)