



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Office of the President

Press Release 01-01

To: The Honorable Student Body of the University of South Florida Tampa Campus

From: Student Government Leadership

Subject: Support for Black students.

Date: June 30th, 2020

As we now are just over a month from the death of George Floyd, Student Government leaders at the Tampa Campus wanted to inform our constituents on what we have been doing recently to support Black students and to promote ant-racist practices:

On June 1st, Student Body President Mitchell released a statement promising that Student Government would fight for “equality, inclusivity, and justice” for Black students at USF

On June 4th, Student Government facilitated a meeting with Representative Jennifer Webb in order to give voices to students and show that we demand change.

On June 5th, We reached out to the Black Student Union at USF to see in what ways we can be allies for the Black community. We also released a statement emphasizing that there is no room for white supremacy.

On June 10th, Student Government facilitated a platform for the Black Student Union to discuss demands with Administration including Dr. Dosal and Dean McDonald.

On June 12th, Tampa Student Government began our June Weekly townhall series, giving students a chance to provide recommendations and ask questions to SG leaders.

On June 15th, Student Government had another meeting with BSU and Administration to have more of a discussion and go into detail on some of the demands stated. Specifically, a Black Student Space.

On June 16th, after receiving feedback from our meeting with Representative Webb, we wanted to give more time to students to speak. Our meeting with Representative Fentrice Driskell on this day gave students another setting to let their voices be heard.

On June 17th, Student Government facilitated a meeting with USFPD and invited BSU to discuss safety of Black students and to ask specific questions about the “8 can’t wait” campaign, and topics such as body cameras.

On June 19th, we had our second townhall giving students another opportunity to provide more recommendations and to ask questions.

On June 22nd, we had a meeting with BSU to learn what we, as students, can do to help each other and work collaboratively towards our common goal.

On June 23rd, Student Government had a meeting with the staff in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, to communicate student concerns.

On June 26th, Student Government had an internal meeting to discuss how we can make the Black Lives Matter movement live on at the USF Tampa campus.

Some key take-aways from these many meetings and many difficult conversations:

- Student Government learned that a Black student space has been demanded by students many times before. We are trying to make this happen and are looking for an ideal space to pursue this.
- USFPD has completed all 8 parts of the “8 can’t wait” campaign
- Body cameras for USFPD officers are expensive, but if we continue to see a need for tools of accountability such as these, we can use our voices to advocate.
- The Office of Multicultural Affairs was understaffed at the beginning of summer and are now being able to operate at full capacity to serve students.