Standing in Solidarity with Minority Students on All College Campuses
Senate Statement No. 4

SUBMITTED BY: Daniel Matthews ’17, Senator
CO-SPONSORS: Rochelle Sun ’19, Legislative Aide
ENDORSED BY: The Senate Committee on Student Life

WHEREAS, the University of Rochester aims to foster an inclusive and welcoming environment for all of its students; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Rochester and Students' Association Government values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity for its students regardless of color, ethnicity, national origin, or race; and,

WHEREAS, minority students comprise 51.7% of the University of Rochester student body; and,

WHEREAS, in the past few weeks, students at college campuses across the nation, including the University of Rochester, Yale, and the University of Missouri, have spoken out against and taken action against racially unjust campus communities that should no longer be tolerated; and,

WHEREAS, on Friday, November 20th, student organizations, notably BSU, DLH, SALSA, and MSAB, spoke out against racial issues at the University of Rochester and presented a list of demands to the University administration; and,

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1 http://www.rochester.edu/diversity/reports/policies-2/nondiscrimination-policy-statement/
3 http://www.rochester.edu/college/OMSA/assets/pdf/Demands.pdf
WHEREAS, on Monday, November 23rd, President Joel Seligman sent an email to the University community acknowledging the grievances addressed by the protesters and established the Presidential Commission on Racial Relations at the University of Rochester; and,

WHEREAS, the Students' Association Government appreciates President Seligman's timely response to the November 20th student protest and his establishment of the Presidential Commission on Racial Relations; and,

WHEREAS, we, the Students' Association Government, have the responsibility to protect, represent, and honor the University of Rochester student body; and,

WHEREAS, we, the Students' Association Government, have promised to condemn discrimination against any ethnicity or race (Article V Section II of the Students' Association Government Constitution),

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Association Government stands in solidarity with the voices of all minority students on campus and campuses across the nation who are impacted by acts of racism, and that we anticipate and expect action to be produced by the Presidential Commission on Racial Relations.

Ethan Bidna  
Speaker, Students' Association Senate

Grant Dever  
President, Students' Association

Senate Votes:

Yes: 15  No: 0  Abs: 3  Date: 12/07/2015