

Our commitment to racial and social justice:

We commit, as a department and a community of students, staff, and faculty, to working to advance racial and social justice and health equity. Our understanding of justice and equity is that they call for the most attention and resources to go to the most impacted, the most in need. They also call for individual and institutional responses and continual efforts to ensure that our learning, research, interactions, culture and environment, and work strive to more fully embody and reflect our commitment to welcome, support, and lift up all members of our community and society, and to move us to a more just and equitable world.

The following is an excerpt from a statement that Chair Janet Shim sent to the SBS community of students, staff, faculty, and alumni on June 1:

?In the aftermath of George Floyd?s killing, that is just the latest in an all-too-long series of acts of state

violence against people of color and especially against black and brown communities, against the backdrop

anger, and hurt so many are feeling.?

?I also want to acknowledge the exhaustion and feelings of despair that come with these endless cycles of

grieving and rage and action, to be followed by something that may include some social change, but that all

too often includes so much of the status quo. For some, this is coming on top of stressors related to the

not normal and not okay times ?

?Saying nothing and doing nothing are not options. All of us, particularly white people and those with

privilege, need to speak up and step up, get active and stay active in efforts to root out and change systems

of structural violence against all those who are oppressed, but especially black and brown communities. I

have for what we can do, individually and collectively, big and small ? For those who are suffering and

struggling, we are with you. Please let us know how we can better support you and each other, and work to

build a healthier world here and beyond.?

To further our pursuit of racial and social equity, and with input from students, staff, and faculty, our

department is currently engaged in several efforts:

Students and faculty, in collaboration, are reviewing our curriculum and course syllabi, and revising and reimagining their content through anti-racist and social justice lenses. Students who are engaging in this work will receive a stipend in recognition of and to explicitly counter how diversity, equity, and inclusion work too often goes uncompensated and unacknowledged as highly valued service that it is. (Timeline: August-December 2020 for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021)

courses, January-June 2021 for Spring 2021 and 2021-22 courses.)