

We, the undersigned department chairs and program directors of the College of Arts and Sciences, fully support the [Message to the SLU Community](#) of Dr. Chris Tinson, Director of African American Studies at Saint Louis University. We share his call for a “robust, thriving, and supported African American Studies department” as central to the institutional transformation to which SLU committed itself in the Clock Tower Accords of 2014. We call upon the university to prioritize and underwrite the growth of African American Studies.

In addition, we commit ourselves and our departments to listening, investigating, and acting to enhance our connections to the discipline of African American Studies. Many scholars and teachers in our disciplines work to contribute to the projects of racial and social justice. Yet Dr. Tinson’s message reminds us that we still fall short of many of our shared ideals regarding equity and racial justice as a Jesuit institution.

We can and should and will do more.

June 19, 2020

Signed,

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