Dear Hokies,

The tragic and unnecessary murder of George Floyd is a national tragedy and demonstrates the state of racially-charged police brutality in America. The recent murder of Ahmaud Arbery, the racially motivated harassment of Christian Cooper, and all other racially-charged incidents including, but not limited to, the actions taken against Breonna Taylor, Steven Taylor, Sean Rean are reprehensible. We acknowledge that these events across America are of great concern to many students and we have a commitment to all students, including actively listening to and supporting concerns coming from students of color.

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Student Government Association encourages all students and administrators on campus to show support for the black community at the University during this time. We affirm that black lives matter and stand by the black community during these tumultuous times. The greater Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University community should use these events as an opportunity to revisit and evaluate our security and law enforcement procedures to eliminate opportunity for racial discrimination, implicit bias, and police brutality. Additionally, the University and the United States of America must do more in the pursuit and acquisition of equal treatment for all people regardless of their race.

The Executive Officers of the Student Government Association support the Black Organizations Council as well as the Black Student Alliance and direct SGA branch officers to prepare recommendations to address race-based issues in our Virginia Tech community.
The Student Government Association will develop an internal ad-hoc committee this upcoming academic year dedicated to evaluating Virginia Tech’s administrative procedures and university policies in comparison to other educational institutions. This committee will be tasked with recommending changes to institutional policies in pursuit of improving our community and creating a better environment for all Hokies regardless of their race.

We respectfully request that the administration join our efforts by forming a task force, which includes student representation, to assess the University’s various operations and formulate changes to make Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University the foremost institution in the United States of America for promoting, supporting, and protecting students of color, especially those in the black community.

In the Spirit of *Ut Prosim*,

Adil Sageer, *President*

Chapman Pendery, *Vice President*

Reena Medavarapu, *Secretary*

Renan Lopes, *Treasurer*