



To the Rockhurst University Community:

Rockhurst Student Senate is heartbroken and upset by the senseless murder of George Floyd. We are called upon, not only as Rockhurst students, but as humans to stand in solidarity with our brothers, sisters, and nonbinary peers who are most affected by the systemic injustices. The unfortunate reality is that racial inequality, racial oppression, and continued systemic injustices have and will affect members of our community every day. We understand and recognize that our words alone will not lessen the pain and outrage felt by our community over the murder of George Floyd. However, we feel it is important to refuse to sit quietly and ignore what it is going on. We hear you. We see you. We have a voice. It is our duty to use our voice to speak up and be a part of the change.

Racist acts of violence have been seared into our memory: Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, Antwon Rose, Laquan McDonald, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Sean Bell, Amadou Diallo, Abner Louima, and Rodney King are just a few of the Black lives that have been unjustly cut short and ripped away from us a result of hate-driven brutality.

As representatives of the student body, we want to make it explicitly clear that we stand in support of our African American and black students, and other students of color who are so often impacted by prejudice, discrimination, and racism within our society. Student Senate would also like to express their support for Campus Security and other security and police officers that serve our respective communities. We appreciate their efforts, especially during these challenging times. It is our responsibility to love and care for every human being, regardless of race, to actively educate ourselves and our community, and to remain committed to this movement.

We condemn any and all forms of racialized systemic oppression against marginalized communities. We are aware that many of you are attending demonstrations to protest the murder of George Floyd. We simply ask that you take care of yourself and those around you, ensuring that you are safe and protesting peacefully. We also encourage members of our community to use their social platforms to call for reform and justice, by donating, calling, or starting a discussion about overt and covert racism. The first step to combating racism and changing our society begins when we start to educate ourselves and begin to change our mindset to go beyond empathy.

We want to ensure that you are aware of resources that are available to you at this time:

- Chief Inclusion Officer: [leslie.doyle@rockhurst.edu](mailto:leslie.doyle@rockhurst.edu)
- Dean of Students: [matthew.quick@rockhurst.edu](mailto:matthew.quick@rockhurst.edu)
- Student Success: [mindy.pettegrew@rockhurst.edu](mailto:mindy.pettegrew@rockhurst.edu)
- Counseling Center: [elbert.darden@rockhurst.edu](mailto:elbert.darden@rockhurst.edu)
- Campus Ministry: [bill.kriege@rockhurst.edu](mailto:bill.kriege@rockhurst.edu)

We are a student government *for* our peers, and we stand by George Floyd and the countless other individuals in our communities and around our country that have lost their lives simply because of their race or ethnic background. We all have a duty to listen to our peers, to provide immediate resources and support, promote positive change, and to enact policies in our community and at our university that combat racism and prejudice.

Further, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, Student Senate is here to listen and talk with you.

For and with others,

- **The Rockhurst University Student Senate**

Instagram: @rusenate

Website: [rusenate.com](http://rusenate.com)

Email: [RoudebushF@hawks.rockhurst.edu](mailto:RoudebushF@hawks.rockhurst.edu) (President);  
[LudwigK@hawks.rockhurst.edu](mailto:LudwigK@hawks.rockhurst.edu) (Social Justice Chair)