

## Black Student Experience at UCR

July 3, 2019

Dear Campus Community,

On June 23, 2019 one of our Black students was stopped in his vehicle off campus and subsequently taken into custody by UCPD. The student was arrested for operating a vehicle with improperly displayed registration tags, suspicion of identity theft, and resisting arrest. The circumstances surrounding this arrest are currently under review.

Three days after the incident, nearly 100 members of the University community including students, staff and faculty, attended a "Town Hall" meeting to express their concerns about the arrest. UCPD Assistant Chief John Freese was present to hear these concerns. In addition, there was extensive discussion about the overall Black student experience here at UCR. This included feedback about issues impacting Black students both inside and outside the classroom.

The topics addressed during the Town Hall are serious and important, and I am committed to engaging in meaningful and authentic dialogue regarding these issues. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Brian Haynes, and I will meet with the group of Black student leaders who brought these issues to our attention in the coming weeks.

In addition, I will establish a University task force to broadly review the Black student experience at UCR and provide recommendations to improve the climate and support for Black students at UCR.

I am committed to keeping the campus community informed about the work of the task force and will provide updates as they are available.

Sincerely,

Kim A. Wilcox  
Chancellor