

**Equity, Access, and Diversity Committee (EAD)**  
**May 29, 2020**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**

*These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration or the Board of Regents.*

[**In these minutes:** Discussion of the Death of George Floyd]

**PRESENT:** Teddie Potter (chair), Tracey Anderson, Noro Andriamanalina, Caroline Bender, Miguel Fiol, Joseph Gerteis, Anna Horning Nygren, Wanda Marsolek, Jeremy Jenkins, Megan Sweet, Nan Thurston, Ross VeLure Roholt

Professor Teddie Potter, chair, called the meeting to order and gave members the opportunity to share their feelings in the wake of the tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) officers.

Next, she turned the floor over to Professor Ross VeLure Roholt, incoming chair, to talk about proposed action for the committee to take. VeLure Roholt informed members that Amber Bathke, senate associate, University Senate Office, had drafted a statement for the committee to react to, and Bathke shared the statement.

Miguel Fiol asked what possible actions the committee could take. He asked whether the committee could call for a University Senate meeting on this topic, or ask that the University Senate meeting, currently scheduled for the following Monday, June 1, 2020, could be postponed or changed to focus on this issue. As that meeting was slated to focus on financial stringency due to COVID-19, he said, it would feel callous to hold that meeting before addressing Mr. Floyd's death.

Joseph Gerteis pointed out that Monday's senate meeting had a time limitation, as it needed to happen before the Board of Regents next met; Jeremy Jenkins suggested that both issues could be discussed at that meeting. Potter said that the committee could suggest the idea and ask that leadership be mindful of the appearance of putting a financial discussion before addressing this situation. She added that she felt strongly that the committee needed to put its support behind President Joan Gabel on the issue of severing ties with MPD. VeLure Roholt agreed, stating that there had been some discord about Gabel's decision, and about the petition created by Minnesota Student Association (MSA) President Jael Kerandi, which urged the president to take that action, among others. He felt it was important for members of the community to speak up and say that these decisions do represent the community. Therefore, he proposed that the committee both draft a statement and urging leadership to use part of Monday's senate meeting to take up the issues around the George Floyd situation.

Fiol asked Bathke whether it was in the committee's purview to call a senate meeting, and Bathke said that she would need to review the University Senate bylaws. However, she noted,

the committee could write a letter urging the Senate Consultative Committee (SCC) to consider both topics at the upcoming meeting. The committee took up a vote on a motion to write a resolution asking the SCC to add this topic to the agenda for the upcoming senate meeting, and the motion was carried. Fiol offered to draft this document.

The committee then took up a vote on a motion to also submit a statement, and that motion also prevailed. In the interest of time, VeLure Roholt proposed working asynchronously through Google Docs on the statement that Bathke had drafted, and taking an electronic vote on the final draft over the weekend. Members agreed.

Potter thanked members for their engagement and adjourned the meeting.

Amber Bathke  
University Senate Office