



Commitment of the Board of Trustees September 18, 2020

This is a pivotal time for the United States and our University, leading the SMU Board of Trustees to reflect on recent racial injustices across our nation and SMU's role. We have witnessed the very real pain and suffering our Black students, faculty, staff, and alumni have been experiencing, individually and collectively. The American Black experience and that of the majority white population are not the same.

SMU was founded in 1911 by the Methodist Church and the city of Dallas, both of which were racially segregated at that time. While SMU may have reflected society then, we no longer hold those beliefs nor tolerate any racial injustices or inequities in our University or in the communities we serve.

Although SMU has made progress in addressing racial issues, we know there is more that can and should be done. We have encouraged President Turner and his administration to continue the important dialogue that has begun to address these issues. It is imperative to listen and strive harder to understand from SMU's Black students, faculty, staff, and alumni what we need to do to remove any remaining vestiges of racial injustices and inequities in our University today. To make progress requires open hearts and a willingness to learn from each other. We must partner with our Black students, faculty, staff, and alumni to create shared experiences where all are valued, feel they belong, and can achieve their greatest potential in personal, academic and professional lives. We want to thank SMU's Black students, faculty, staff, and alumni for their honesty and passion in working together to improve our University.

For SMU to live up to its motto of "World Changers Shaped Here," we must strengthen our commitment and act to ensure achieving racial equality and opportunity for all SMU Mustangs. We look forward to addressing these issues with President Turner and the administration to ensure our progress on these action plans with the Black Unity Forum.