WHEREAS, recent events at other college institutions, such as the University of Missouri, have brought racial issues to the forefront of students' minds, and;

WHEREAS, students of color on the University of Nebraska - Lincoln’s campus have been victims and targets of racism, and;

WHEREAS, UNL students have organized a Black Lives Matter rally to be held on Thursday, November 19th from 12:20 - 2:00 pm on the City Union Plaza, and;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement seeks to open lines of communication regarding unequal treatment of black people through peaceful demonstrations, and;

WHEREAS, ASUN supports student activism and encourages non-violent, respectful dialogue about hard-hitting issues that affect students, and;

WHEREAS, the ASUN diversity statement dictates that we as student leaders be strong advocates for minority and underrepresented student issues, ensure all students are afforded a safe, respectful, and inclusive university environment, and challenge intolerance and misinformation, and;

WHEREAS, the African People’s Union, the African Student Association, the Black Graduate Student Organization, the National Society of Black Engineers, Middle Eastern Students Unite, Amnesty International UNL, the Nebraska ACLU, and the Chancellor’s Commission on the Status of People of Color Students Committee have expressed their support of the event, and;

WHEREAS, Chancellor Perlman, Sr. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Ronnie Green, and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Juan Franco sent out a letter to faculty and staff stating that this event is significantly important for our community, and encouraging them to join them in attendance at the event.

THEREFORE LET IT BE ENACTED, that ASUN expresses its support for the Black Lives Matter rally scheduled for Thursday, November 19th at 12:20pm in front of the City Union, and;

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER ENACTED, that ASUN recognizes its responsibility to ensure campus is inclusive of all students, and;

THEREFORE LET IT FINALLY BE ENACED, that ASUN admonishes any persons, groups, or actions that would seek to discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation.

SUBMITTED BY President Thien Chau DATE 11-17-15

FLOOR ACTION Adopted by Roll Call Vote 25-0-1 DATE 11-18-15

PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE DATE
Dear colleagues;

As you no doubt know, some students have organized a “Black Lives Matter” event on Thursday just north of the Nebraska Union at 12:20 p.m. This obviously occurs in the context of national concerns about racism particularly on university campuses. We believe this event, and discussions about race relations, are significantly important for our community.

Inclusion and diversity are deeply valued at UNL. We are committed to creating and maintaining an environment where people from all backgrounds can engage, challenge and support one another. While our university is not purposefully racist, we unfortunately acknowledge that there may be some among us who define individuals by the color of their skin and not by the content of their talents or character. We also understand that the experiences of some black students and other students of color at the university, and in the community at large, are different than what other students experience. While it is hard to walk in another person’s shoes, we can listen and try to understand their perspectives and experiences.

Black lives do matter. Those lives are often lived under circumstances others don’t see. I hope you will join us on Thursday as we listen and seek to better understand each other. Then, collectively we will continue to work hard to assure our university successfully supports equal opportunities and an inclusive environment for all students.

Harvey Perlman, Chancellor
Ronnie Green, Sr. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Juan Franco, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs