June 2, 2020

Dear Mathematics and Statistics Students,

The murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police last week, the subsequent protests in Minneapolis and around the country, the violent reactions that have followed some of those protests, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have affected all of us. We condemn the murder of George Floyd and we support the right to protest both that murder and the underlying widespread systemic racism. We also recognize that these events have not affected all of us in the same way or to the same extent. As is too often the case, their burden falls more heavily on people of color, and on Black people in particular. We know many of you are impacted by these events; we stand in solidarity with you and we are here to support you. Some of us have already reached out to students in our classes and others plan to do so soon. We also appreciate hearing from you about how we can best help. In some situations we can make adjustments to course assignments to ease your workload during this stressful time. In other situations you may need a formal extension to turn in coursework after the last day of classes, or to turn in a final project or take a final exam after the last day of finals. In that case you should contact the Dean of Students Office. Whatever your situation, we would like you to know that we are here for you.

For all of us in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics,

Eric Egge, Department Chair