

May 31, 2020

To the student body of the University of Central Arkansas:

The Student Government Association (SGA) at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) wants to make it very clear that we stand in complete solidarity with the Black community locally as well as nationally. We recognize in the past that Student Government has seldom spoken out about social issues, however, it is imperative that we continue to align our actions with the values of our institution. With one of the core values being diversity, this statement is imperative.

The knowledge section of the UCA diversity statement says “we seek to enhance interaction and understanding among diverse groups and cultivate enriched learning opportunities in a global community.” We pride ourselves on the vibrant diversity of our campus, knowing that students who come here will be welcomed, uplifted, and accepted. By not speaking out we neglect the very premise of that statement. Our support for diversity should never be selective or contingent but consistent and universal. This culture of accepting diversity has fostered a variety of traditionally black organizations that enrich this university.

These organizations are, but not limited to; Minority Mentorship Program, Black Male Achievement Challenge, Real Beauty, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Gospel Choir, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Griot Society, Student Propagation of Black Culture, Ivorian Student Association, Ebony Models, African Student Association, The Blackprint, and so many more.

Our fellow Bears - students, faculty, and staff - who are part of the Black community are vital to the UCA campus and may be feeling particularly vulnerable at this point in time. However, I want to let you know directly that we hear you and we are with you.

The Student Government Association is here to ensure the success and achievement of all students. Here is how SGA plans to take meaningful action.

1. Increasing channels of communication between SGA and traditionally black organizations on campus, not just in this time, but forever moving forward.

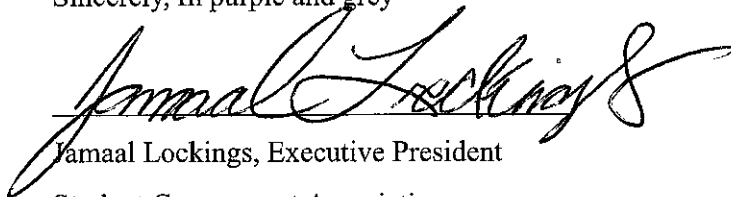
2. Releasing surveys to the UCA community pertaining to the black student experience on campus in order for us to increase our understanding and find ways to further assist in their times of vulnerability, and in their times of joy.
3. Collaborating with the UCA Police Department (PD) for the implementation of programs that will enhance understanding and relationships between UCA PD and our students, faculty, and staff.
4. Collaborating with the Conway Police Department in respect to student interactions off-campus.

Our motto “Students First” has no stipulations on color, belief, religion, sexuality or ideology. SGA promises to continue advocating for each and every one of you. Knowing that the changes we wish to see in the world start right here in bear nation, with our family. We challenge you to hold us accountable in our endeavors and to be unwavering in your actions and words against the mistreatment of others. Bears are stronger together and most importantly we are resilient.

I see you, I hear you, I am with you, and I serve you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to ucasga.president@gmail.com or call (832) 935-0243.

Sincerely, In purple and grey

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jamaal Lockings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jamaal Lockings, Executive President

Student Government Association

University of Central Arkansas