



# Faculty Council

## University of Missouri

### Open Letter Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic and Racial Discrimination

The Columbia campus of the University of Missouri appreciates that there are unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 virus that impact the health of our campus and community. The rapidly evolving situation demands our care for all members of our campus and community.

That said, it is with sadness that we note that some members of the Chinese, Korean, and other Asian communities on our campus and in our community have experienced incidents of discomfort and discrimination in their dealings with others because of the pandemic.

The urgency of the ongoing pandemic is not a time for high-flown statements of resolve. We note the following:

- The World Health Organization has chosen the name for this virus, COVID-19, and we call on all members of the university community as well as our elected officials to refer to it by its scientific name and not to use any name which could be used to stigmatize our Chinese, Korean or other Asian friends and colleagues.
- We call on all members of the university community as well as our elected officials to reject and push back against any xenophobia triggered by racist descriptions of COVID-19.
- Any individuals who have experienced discrimination or bias are strongly urged to consider submitting a report to the MU Office for Civil Rights and Title IX (<https://civilrights.missouri.edu/reporting-and-policies/>). In addition, Mizzou's International Student and Scholar Services is also available to help students and scholars navigate their responses and cope with such incidents. The Faculty Council is interested in soliciting the advice and perspectives from individuals, which can help develop guidance to further reduce discrimination or bias against our Asian friends and colleagues. Such communication will not be treated as official reports (which should be directed to the MU Office for Civil Rights and Title IX) but may help shape policy and programming decisions. Individuals may contact Faculty Council at: [mufacultycouncil@missouri.edu](mailto:mufacultycouncil@missouri.edu)

Finally, we again emphasize the gratitude we have for the Chinese, Korean, and other Asian friends and colleagues among us. Your presence and your contributions to our community help to make Mizzou and our community the vibrant multicultural learning environment it is.