To the members of our community,

The Center for the Humanities and its staff strongly condemns white supremacy, police violence, and all forms of racism, interpersonal and structural, and we honor the pain that these forces have caused our Black students, faculty, and staff.

And, in turn, we want to make a simple but necessary affirmation: Black lives matter. We believe these words represent an important step in the long struggle for systemic change. We echo the words of Dean Eric Wilcots’s recent message: “As individuals, we must all speak out and act against racism and injustice, acknowledge our biases and prejudices and work actively to counter them. As a community, we must work to ensure that all of us are safe, welcomed, and included. Together, it is our responsibility to do all that we can to end racism and injustice.”

We stand in solidarity with those protesting this country’s ongoing, centuries-long legacy of anti-Black violence and we write to affirm our support for the dignity of all our Black community members. As a unit committed to the public humanities, we pledge not only to continue our fight for racial justice, but to intensify that fight to meet the scale of the crises with which we are faced in the present moment.

Sincerely,

The UW-Madison Center for the Humanities