April 27, 2016

Leslie Wong, President
Administration Building 562
San Francisco State University
San Francisco, CA 94132

Re: Letter of Support for San Francisco State University College of Ethnic Studies and Department of Africana Studies Department

Dear President Wong,

We, the undersigned faculty of the Department of Africana Studies at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) write this letter in support of the College of Ethnic Studies and the Department of Africana Studies at San Francisco State University (SFSU). The proposed operating budget for the College of Ethnic Studies will gravely diminish the ability of various departments and entities in the college to operate and stifle any capability for growth. Sadly, it would force departments to dismantle graduate programs, eliminate part-time faculty members, and eliminate the possibility of future hires. Essentially, this budget proposal signals a disinvestment toward diversity and inclusiveness and render Ethnic Studies nonexistent at SFSU. The current treatment of the of College Ethnic Studies does not reflect the university’s traditional commitment to progressive curriculum shift in higher education and it is in direct opposition to CSU Chancellor White’s mandate for support of Ethnic Studies departments in the CSU.

We appeal to the university to continue its investment toward inclusivity making a commitment to the College of Ethnic Studies by pursuing an alternative approach to address the financial challenges of the college. We ask that SFSU honor Chancellor Timothy White’s support of and commitment to the growth and maintenance of Ethnic Studies. His convening of the CSU Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies documents the invaluable educational and societal work done by faculty, staff and students in Ethnic Studies. To further illustrate this urgent and compelling need to support the College of Ethnic Studies at SFSU, we call to our attention to Resolution AS-3164-14/AA/FA approved by the California State University Academic Senate proposing that the CSU place a moratorium on changes to Ethnic Studies programs. Lastly we ask the university to honor the bill Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71 in support of the growth and maintenance of Africana Studies.
The Department of Africana Studies as well as the College of Ethnic Studies at SFSU jointly serve as a historical and foundational disciplinary vanguard and continues to be a vibrant academic units that produce civically engaged graduate students. For example, there are graduates of CSUDH that have completed their Master’s degree in Ethnic Studies at SFSU and have gone on to earn a Ph.D. and are active scholars in our discipline. In addition, one of the leading texts in research methods in Africana Studies was produced by a faculty member in the College of Ethnic Studies at SFSU and has been adopted in Africana Studies departments across the nation. The current racial climate serves as an indicator that the study of race and the intersection of class, gender, and culture are invaluable for improving our society and instilling in our students the conception of their place in the world as global citizens. SFSU has been at the vanguard of revolutionizing higher education and transforming the methods of understanding human phenomena by instituting a college devoted to Ethnic Studies. Your support for the College of Ethnic Studies is a commitment to improving the world.

In solidarity,

[Signature]

Rudy Vanterpool, Department Chair
Justin Gammage, Assistant Professor
Nicole Vines, Lecturer

Cc: Kenneth P. Monteiro, Dean, College of Ethnic Studies
    Amy H. Sueyoshi, Associate Dean, College of Ethnic Studies
    Dorothy Randall Tsuruta, Chair, Department of Africana Studies