

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 6



City and County of San Francisco

JANE KIM

Statement on the San Francisco State University Hunger Strike
May 9, 2016

We stand in solidarity with Hassani Bell, Ahkeel Mestayer, Julia Retzlaff, and Sachiel Rosen—the four members of the Third World Liberation Front 2016—for their brave actions and leadership in advocating for and protecting San Francisco State University’s Ethnic Studies Program and ethnic studies programs throughout California.

When I served on the San Francisco Board of Education, I worked to establish ethnic studies programs in high schools. Ethnic studies programs are crucial for students to learn about the history, experiences, and social struggles of racial minorities in the U.S., such as the 1968 Black Student Union/Third World Liberation Front, which established the Ethnic Studies Program at SFSU, the first ethnic studies program in the country, and whose footsteps the Third World Liberation Front 2016 is following. Spending on the California State University and University of California systems has decreased by the same amount as spending on California’s prison system has increased. Where California spends its money is a representation of our values as a state. It is time to reinvest in the institutions we want our children to thrive in—universities, not prisons.

The Third World Liberation Front 2016 is risking their health and their lives to save SFSU’s Ethnic Studies Program, going on now 8 days without food. We join the Third World Liberation Front 2016 and the Chairs Council of the College of Ethnic Studies in asking SFSU President Leslie Wong and Provost Sue Rosser to revisit the urgent needs articulated by the Third World Liberation Front 2016 to increase funding to save the Ethnic Studies Program at SFSU and to increase graduation rates of all students at SFSU.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Kim".