



DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
PHONE: 530-752-2069
FAX: 530-752-9260

ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8667

March 10, 2016

Office of the President
Academic Affairs and the Office of the Provost
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue, Administration Building 562
San Francisco, CA 94132

Dear President Wong and Provost Rosser:

We are writing on behalf of the Asian American Studies Department at the University of California, Davis to express our grave concern about the proposed cuts to the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University (SFSU). We stand in solidarity with the College of Ethnic Studies. We invite you to support the demands set forth by the faculty, staff, and students invested in preserving the future of the only College of Ethnic Studies in the world.

Ethnic Studies is an essential core to the curricular offerings of public institutions in the United States. San Francisco State paved the way, and for that we are all grateful that this innovative, bold and historic legacy ushered in an unforeseen yet inevitable future that our peoples' knowledge production would not only find a seat at the table in higher education but would grow to become indispensable to the future of an educated population. Ethnic Studies, as research has repeatedly demonstrated, promotes student success, graduation rates, and civic contributions.

Ethnic Studies scholarship is vital to the scholarly work produced in our interdisciplinary field of Asian American Studies. We could owe our intellectual vision to the intellectual contributions and leadership that have helped to move the field from its beginnings, inclusive of its early transnational and community-centered focus. Moving to diminish or eliminate Ethnic Studies drastically impacts the intellectual project of Asian American Studies.

Further, our own Department faculty and students reflect a rich and textured interdisciplinary approach that demonstrates the many scholarly fields that have grown to depend on the research produced in Ethnic Studies. Attacks on the College of Ethnic Studies will have repercussive effects on the future of not just other Ethnic Studies units, but on countless disciplines that have grown to depend on Ethnic Studies, including Gender and Sexuality Studies, American Studies, Cultural Studies, Sociology, Literature, History, etc. We urge you to come to the table with concerned students, faculty, and community members to reach a plan for moving forward that honors the invaluable presence and the future of the College of Ethnic Studies both at the University itself, and in the work of countless fields of study more generally.

Sincerely,

The Department of Asian American Studies