



CHICANA/O STUDIES
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March 8, 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 Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at the University of California, Davis. We are writing 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 in support of its demands set forth by the faculty, staff, and students invested in preserving the future of the only College of Ethnic Studies in the world. We call on you to heed these demands as they ensure the quality education San Francisco State and California's public higher education systems promise the students of California and beyond.

Ethnic Studies is not a luxury; it is an essential core to the curricular offerings of public institutions in the United States. San Francisco 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' histories, literatures, in short, 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. Research has consistently showed that Ethnic Studies promotes student success, graduation rates, and civic contributions. Any attack on the future of Ethnic Studies is an attack on the youth of California and the future of this state.

Ethnic Studies scholarship is vital to the scholarly work produced in our interdisciplinary field Chicana and Chicano Studies. We could not and would not be a viable intellectual enterprise without the intellectual contributions that have helped to move the field from its beginnings. Any moves to diminish or eliminate Ethnic Studies drastically impact the intellectual project of Chicana and Chicano Studies and we will not stand by and watch this happen.

Further, our own Department faculty and students reflect a rich and textured interdisciplinary training 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 Sociology, Gender Studies, American Studies, Cultural Studies. Literature, Health, 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.

Lastly, the project of Ethnic Studies as inspired by the foundational vision at San Francisco State, is rooted in our communities' struggle for self-determination, social justice, and freedom from violence. This is the vocation, the dream, the past and the future of Ethnic Studies. We will fight as long as it takes to continue the struggle until justice come around. There is no killing or slowly eroding or underfunding this struggle. Justice is on our side, as you too will soon come to see.

Sincerely,

Carlos F. Jackson, Associate Professor & Chair
Angie Chabram, Professor
Yvette Flores, Professor
Sergio de la Mora, Associate Professor
Natalia Deeb-Sossa, Associate Professor
Maceo Montoya, Assistant Professor
Susy Zepeda, Assistant Professor
Clarissa Rojas, Assistant Professor