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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Robert McKee Irwin, Chair
3129 Hart Hall
CULTURAL STUDIES GRADUATE GROUP
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8518

March 9, 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 Cultural Studies Graduate Group of the University of California, Davis. Our program is one of the few advanced degrees in Cultural Studies in the United States and offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of culture and society that highlights how sexuality, race, ability, citizenship, gender, nationality, class and language organize embodied identities, social relations and cultural objects. Ethnic Studies is, therefore, a key component and our PhD program and of our intellectual foundation.

We wish to express our grave concern about the proposed cuts to the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University (SFSU), and we invite you to affirmatively respond to the demands set forth by the students, faculty, and staff invested in preserving the future of the only College of Ethnic Studies in the world.

Ethnic Studies scholarship is critical to Cultural Studies; the College is vital to the scholarly work produced in our field. In short, Cultural Studies could not and would not be what it is without the intellectual contributions that have helped to move the field through the critical study of race, empire and colonialism. The College's flagship standing as the first program and the only College of Ethnic Studies in the country would have repercussive tremors throughout other Ethnic Studies programs and their survival--and strengthening is vital to the future of our field.

Any moves to diminish or eliminate Ethnic Studies drastically impact the intellectual project of Cultural Studies and we urge you to come to the table with concerned students, faculty, and community members to reach a plan for moving forward that recognizes the invaluable presence of Ethnic Studies both at the University itself, and in the work of Cultural Studies more generally.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. McKee Irwin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert McKee Irwin, Chair

Cultural Studies Graduate Group, Executive Committee

Marisol de la Cadena, Professor, Anthropology

Omnia El Shakry, Associate Professor, History

Sudipta Sen, Professor, History

Caren Kaplan, Professor, American Studies

Susette Min, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies

Kriss Ravetto, Associate Professor, Cinema and Digital Media

Robyn Rodriguez, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies

Elisa White, Associate Professor, African American and African Studies

Myrtie Williams, Cultural Studies graduate student representative