

In solidarity,
James Martel (on behalf of all chairs listed below)

Statement of support for the College of Ethnic Studies

We, the undersigned chairs in the College of Liberal and Creative Arts, would like to express our solidarity with and support for the College of Ethnic Studies. Every college in our university needs to have enough money to function. With the proposed reduction in support for next year, the College of Ethnic Studies would be able to have no student resource center, no advising support or work-study, no lecturers, no new lines for tenure track, no sabbatical replacements, no graduate courses, and no graduate coordinator. The college will be left with a budget inadequate to even cover the salaries of their bare bones cohort of existing faculty and staff. It is simply not enough for a college to maintain itself with a budget that provides less funds than immediately contracted mandatory salaries.

This proposed budget will signal the steady strangulation of the College of Ethnic Studies. We do not accept the argument that the reduction is not one of budget but rather one of eliminating payments in excess of that budget. The College of Ethnic Studies has been funded below its necessary level for years and has been required to spend over its budget just to function normally. We ask that the University administration support the College of Ethnic Studies at the level that it requires in order to get equivalent financing that the other Colleges do. We would say this for any college but we also feel strongly that the College of Ethnic Studies is unique, the only such college in the United States and a landmark that has put San Francisco State University on the map. The impact of a college like this cannot be measured with the usual metrics. It is greater than a question of losses or gains on a spreadsheet. The College of Ethnic Study is a key part of SFSU's proud tradition of fighting for social justice. We treasure this vital aspect of our academic community and see any threat to its continued existence as a threat to the larger academic community at SFSU.

Signed,

James Martel, chair, Political Science
Fred Astren, chair, Jewish Studies and faculty member, Middle East and Islamic Studies
Jim Quesada, chair, Anthropology
Anita Silvers, chair, Philosophy
Deborah Cohler, chair, Women and Gender Studies
Cristina Ruotolo, director, School of Humanities and Liberal Studies
Maxine Chernoff, chair, Creative Writing
Philip Dreyfus, chair, History
Sugie Goen-Salter, chair, English
Dane Johnson, chair, Comparative and World Literature
Mohammad Salama, chair, Modern Languages and Literatures
Vinay Shrivastava, chair, BECA
Britta Holly Sjogren, director, School of Cinema
Cristina Azocar, chair, Journalism
Christina Sabee, chair, Communication Studies