

May 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:

On behalf of the Asian American Studies Department at the California State University, Northridge, I want to express our students and faculty's deepest 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, as well as the students who are on hunger strike in support of the College. We urge you to consider supporting 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 essential to the curricular offerings of public institutions in the United States. San Francisco State paved the way for culturally responsive education, and for that we are all grateful. Ethnic Studies ushered in an unforeseen yet inevitable future—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. As research has repeatedly demonstrated, Ethnic Studies promotes student success, graduation rates, civic engagement, and societal contributions. We consider the student hunger strike to embody the convictions and ideals of Ethnic Studies, and we advocate for SFSU administration to support the student hunger strikers' full and healthy transition back to their studies and campus life.

Ethnic Studies is vital to the scholarship produced in the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Studies. We credit our disciplinary vision to the intellectual contributions and leadership that have moved 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 Ethnic Studies research. Attacks on the College of Ethnic Studies will have repercussions on the future of not just other Ethnic Studies units, but on countless disciplines, 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.

Sincerely,

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