

Resolution in Support of the American Indian Student Association's Demand for the Reinstatement of the American Indian Studies Student Affairs Officer

Whereas, UCLA students have had a tradition of active engagement in American Indian issues of social justice, representing 80 of the 100 American Indians at the occupation of Alcatraz (1)

Whereas, the UCLA Pow Wow is recognized as the second largest student-run pow wow in the state, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year (2)

Whereas, UCLA has been a leader in American Indian Studies undergraduate and graduate studies, as well as law studies, including the establishment of the American Indian Studies Center in 1969 (3)

Whereas, the American Indian Studies Center has contributed to the academic richness of the university with groundbreaking research and world-renowned scholarly publications (4)

Whereas, Retention of American Indians Now (RAIN) and American Indian Recruitment (AIR) have been at the forefront of UCLA programs supporting both the recruitment and retention of native students

Whereas, UCLA Regular Rank faculty is composed of only 0.2% Native American faculty (5)

Whereas, the American Indian undergraduate student population on campus is 0.045% (8)

Whereas, the proportion of American Indians in the UCLA undergraduate student population is less than the national average of 1.1% (6), despite a higher representation of the American Indian population in California as compared to the nation (7)

Whereas, in 1994 the American Indian Studies Student Affairs Officer position was developed to coordinate the Student/Community Relations unit by the American Indian Studies Center which allowed for a significant academic and student support network to the marginalized American Indian students

Whereas, the position was charged with performing all administrative/faculty support and student affairs duties for the American Indian Studies Interdepartmental Program (IDP) which was fully transferred over to the IDP in 1999 by then Dean Scott Waugh, College of Letters and Science and Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, Dean of the Graduate Division.

Whereas, the American Indian Studies Student Affairs Officer's duties and tasks include but are not limited to:

1. Counseling undergraduate and graduate students
2. Administration of undergraduate and graduate student affairs in American Indian Studies Center [AISC]
3. Overseeing American Indian student and alumni organizations with AISC and UCLA
4. Overseeing financial aid and fiscal opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students of AISC
5. Recruiting American Indian students and connecting UCLA with American Indian tribes and the community at large

Whereas, the American Indian Studies Student Affairs Officer position was terminated indefinitely by the Dean of Social Sciences, Alessandro Duranti despite the Student Affairs Officer's 20 years of dedicated service to the American Indian community on campus and at large

Whereas, the loss of the American Indian Studies Student Affairs Officer position threatens the academic well-being and success of the American Indian community on campus

Whereas, students taking classes within the American Indian Studies IDP rely on the resources and guidance of this Student Affairs Officer in order to progress in their chosen field of study

Whereas, a survey of educators involved in American Indian studies and services from 11 institutions revealed that 90% consider counseling services important or very important for American Indian student retention (9)

Whereas, this year marks 40 years of Ethnic Studies at UCLA as a testament to UCLA's commitment to diversity, the fifth hallmark of UCLA (10)

Whereas, Chancellor Block dedicated this year to be the Year of Ethnic Studies to commemorate and support cultural and ethnic diversity on campus (11)

Whereas, the Ethnic Studies programs at UCLA is pivotal to the holistic education of all UCLA students by promoting cultural understanding and providing critical perspectives on the role of race and ethnicity in American society

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council supports the American Indian Student Association's demand for the immediate reinstatement of the American Indian Studies Student Affairs Officer position

Let it be further resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council urges the University of California Los Angeles to pledge to maintain the independence and sovereignty of the American Indian Studies Center and American Indian Studies Interdepartmental Program

Let it be finally resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council urges the University of California, Los Angeles to financially support and promote all the Ethnic Studies Interdepartmental Programs, Departments, and Centers at UCLA.

Sponsored by:

Suza Khy, USAC Academic Affairs Commissioner
Jamie Yao, USAC Community Service Commissioner
Kinnery Shah, USAC Cultural Affairs Commissioner
Jasmine Hill, USAC President

Footnotes:

(1, 3) Thomas, Eva. "AISA at UCLA celebrates 40 years of student advocacy." *Indian Country Today*. Indian Country Today, 23 Jan. 2010. Web. 11 August 2010.

(2) Torralba, Elaiza. "AISA Plans to Hold Pow Wow at UCLA." *Daily Bruin*, 30 April 2010. Web. 11 August 2010.

(4, 11) Chancellor Block's Statement to the Campus Community "40 Years of Ethnic Studies at UCLA"

(5) *2009 Regular Rank Faculty Diversity Statistics*. Faculty Diversity and Development. Los Angeles, CA: University of California Los Angeles. 2009. (PDF)

(6) "Table 24.1: Total number, total percentage distribution, and percent female of undergraduate fall enrollment in degree-granting institutions, by race/ethnicity: Selected years, 1976–2008." *Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Minorities*. 2008. U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences. Web. 12 August 2010.

(7) "California: State & County QuickFacts." 2008. Bureau of the Census. Web. 11 August 2010.

(8) "University of California, Los Angeles Profile" 2009. Web. 26 August 2010.

(9) Falk, Dennis R. and Larry P. Aitken. Promoting retention among American Indian college students. *Journal of American Indian Education*, 1984, 23, 24-31.

(10) "UCLA Institutional Proposal to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges." *UCLA Reaccreditation by WASC*. 12 May 2006. Web. Page 3. 13 August 2010. (PDF)