

4/30/15

Dear Students, Community and Familia,

We are writing to you to express our enormous anger at the recurring incidents of racial harassment and discrimination towards the Chicana/o Latina/o community at UC Davis. Faculty, staff, and students are extremely distressed by the constant macro and micro aggressions that emerge across the institution. We see these acts as reminders of the severe under-representation of Chicana/o Latina/o faculty, staff, administrators, and students within the UC system; a stark juxtaposition to our community's majority population in the state of California and an indication of the remaining legacy of California's and the US's racialized oppressive past. Ultimately, these racist aggressions and the hurtful aftermath become an extra tax on our department, an emotional, physical, and time-based tax that is not felt across the campus nor shared across all departments.

We are writing to voice our unconditional support to our Chicana/o and Latina/o students, staff and community at this time. As UC Davis moves towards becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution, we seek meaningful institutional change that creates an educational community that protects, values, and structurally supports under-represented students, faculty, and staff.

Racist events across campus are often seen as isolated incidents. Yet, as indicated in a recent letter sent by students who have been hurt, marginalized, and alienated by the latest racist incident, these racist behaviors by members of different university's organizations, sports teams, and individuals are part of a long history of racist acts that have not been repaired institutionally. Within the student's recent letter (attached here as an addendum) a lack of safety and respect on the UC Davis campus is expressed. Faculty in Chicana/o Studies share these feelings of institutionalized racism, as we too carry the burden of seeking to persist within a campus community where micro and macro racist aggressions take place constantly. This is not an isolated incident but rather an issue that demands institutional change at a time when the state of California is facing dramatic transformation.

As the state of California continues to transform with an ever growing Chicana/o/Latina/o population and as UC Davis moves to become a Hispanic Serving Institution, we seek institutional change in every sector of the campus; the Academic Senate, the Classroom, Student-Life, and in meeting the mission of the Land-Grant institution to apply research and solutions to the State's needs; the under-representation and risk factors facing the Chicana/o Latina/o community being a priority.

Moving forward the faculty and staff in Chicana/o Studies pledge that there will be one place on the UC Davis campus where we can guarantee *everyone* will be valued/respected/supported and that place is within our hallway and in the classrooms of our Department. The faculty and staff also pledge that we will work with all who seek to create meaningful transformation and to fulfill the mission of public higher education within the state of California.

For now, as always, we are at your service,

Carlos F. Jackson, Associate Professor & Chair, Chicana/o Studies

Angie Chabram, Professor, Chicana/o Studies

Yvette Flores, Professor, Chicana/o Studies

Sergio de la Mora, Associate Professor, Chicana/o Studies

Natalia Deeb-Sossa, Associate Professor, Chicana/o Studies

Maceo Montoya, Assistant Professor, Chicana/o Studies

Susy Zepeda, Assistant Professor, Chicana/o Studies

Clarissa Rojas, Assistant Professor, Chicana/o Studies

Alyssa West, Program Coordinator, Chicana/o Studies

Alma Martinez, Student Affairs Officer, Chicana/o Studies

April 27th, 2015

To Chancellor Katehi and Senior Administration of UC Davis:

We are writing to you to express our disappointment in how UC Davis has systematically failed to respond to and prevent incidents of racial insensitivity, hate, harassment, discrimination, and ignorance. It is extremely disappointing that our communities have to experience such disrespectful, ignorant, and harmful acts for several years now on campus. We call on you and your fellow senior administration to acknowledge your failure to guarantee a safe, respectful, and comfortable space for students of color on this campus. We also call on your administration to engage with students of color to develop long-term programmatic, financial, and policy changes to institutionalize UC Davis' enforcement of its Principles of Community.

There have been several incidents that have made this campus unsafe for underrepresented communities such as:

- Alpha Gamma Rho's "Lupe Song"
- "Catch the Illegal Immigrant Game" by the Davis College Republicans
- Anti-gay hate speech being found on the stairwell of the Rainbow House
- A wrestling team having a party called "Hoes and Hermaphrodites"
- LGBTQIA Resource Center being defaced with homophobic graffiti
- EOP office being defaced and vandalized with racial slurs
- Having the "Unfinished Dream" multicultural mural at the Memorial Union being defaced and having the Star of David drawn over the Palestinian flag on the mural.
- Having the Lambda Law School Students Association's bulletin board being defaced with a homophobic slur
- A ribbon being written on with the words "use me as a noose" being displayed on campus during the 2011 UC Davis Student of Color Conference
- The mock KKK hood being found on the African/African-American Living Learning Community
- "Cinco de Drinko" and "Holyland" parties by Coho employees
- "Phi-esta" party by the Alpha Phi Sorority and Sigma Chi Fraternity
- Members of the official UC Davis Women's Lacrosse Team posing as "Mexican gangsters" in a photo.
- Death threats, incidents of Islamophobia and other anti-Arab attacks that have been reported on campus

And many other incidents that go unreported.

These are not isolated events. As the "One UC Davis" campaign proclaims, we are "a global network of people connected to our university", and thus all these events are connected.

To say that these incidents have upset us would be a disservice to how much pain we and our respective communities are feeling on this campus. These are injustices.

For that reason, we no longer want letters of apologies, but a declaration by the university stating that they as an institution have failed their students in providing a safe, respectful, and comfortable space for them. That the University has failed to "maintain a climate of justice marked by respect for each other" which the "Principles of Community" proclaim. The University has not provided a space that will "confront and reject all manifestations of discrimination, including those based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual

orientation, religious or political beliefs, status within or outside the university, or any of the other differences among people which have been excuses for misunderstanding, dissension or hatred.”

Our communities want these words within our “Principles of Community” to not only be words on the website. They should instead provide the foundation for concerted action. For that reason we also want a declaration and a real commitment by the university to combat these injustices that happen on campus.

We require a prompt response, no more than 24 hours upon receiving this letter, in regards to the hate acts that have been occurring on campus. We require and demand immediate and clear consequences for any future acts of similar nature, and that those consequences be **mentioned as clearly as possible to any future students who wish to partake in any similar event.**

We deserve to be in a university where we are not attacked, ridiculed, shamed, harassed, or discriminated against based on our identities and appearances. We deserve to be respected, acknowledged, safe and comfortable in this community. We deserve to continue our education in a supportive campus where we can ensure Administration will confront cases of racial insensitivity, hate, harassment, discrimination, and ignorance.

As the university moves forward to becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution, we believe it will be of utmost importance that campus leaders and administrators intentionally shape our campus organizational culture to create more inclusive environments for our racially and ethnically diverse student populations.

If the university continues to ignore these repetitive harmful acts of hate, discrimination, and ignorance then it will be clear to us that this university does not care for the safety and well-being of their students. If this issue is not resolved internally with institutionalized support, we will then push to have this addressed externally.

Your students and community,

Movimiento Estudiantil Chican@ de Aztlan (MEChA) de UC Davis

La Fe Latino Fellowship

Scholars Promoting Education, Awareness, and Knowledge (SPEAK) of UC Davis

La Familia

Sac Girls Speak

Voices of Color

Sexual Assault Awareness Advocacy Committee (SAAAC)

DREAM Committee (DREAM)

Sergio de la Mora, Associate Professor, Chicana/o Studies Dept.

Mariah K. Watson, ASUCD President

Anabiah Syed, ASUCD Senator

Andrea Velazquez, ASUCD Senator

Danielle Mae Santiago, ASUCD Senator

Casey Nguyen, ASUCD Senator

Harley Litzelman, Director of the ASUCD Office of Advocacy and Student Representation

Nilofer Chollampat, Ethnic & Cultural Affairs Commission Chair

Joanna Jaroszewska, ASUCD Business and Finance Commission Chair

Yee Xiong, Student Director of Southeast Asians Furthering Education (SAFE)

Maria Salazar, Student Assistant for the Department of Chicana/o Studies

Lamia Hajani, Asian/Pacific Islander Coordinator @ Cross Cultural Center

Yik'al Kuyum The Chicana/x Latinx Holistic Support Program at the SRRC:

Karen Gonzalez, Student Director, RROC Board Chair

Sabrina Sanchez, Holistic Retention Coordinator

Erica Perez, Gender and Sexuality Coordinator

Angelica Flores, Middle School Outreach

Adriana Fernandez, High School Outreach

Alondra Morales, Administration

African Diaspora Cultivating Education (A.C.E.)

Graduate Academic Achievement and Advocacy Program

Alberto Valdivia, GAAAP Student Director/RROC Board Member

Luis Corrales, Community Relations Intern for the Department of Chicana/o Studies

Chucha Marquez, UC Davis Alumnus, founding member of SMART

Kirby Araullo, Founder of Rise Up! At UCD and League of Filipino Students (UC Davis Chapter)

Alina Quintana, Academic Peer Advisor for the Department of Chicana/o Studies

Melissa Zamora, Student Assistant for the Department of Chicana/o Studies

Iris Xie, Student Assistant, Women and Gender Studies

Sophia Kanaan, Student Coordinator for the Davis Feminist Film Festival (DFFF)

Jess Galicia, Community Intern at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual Resource Center

Jillian Mariano, USAS member, Ethnic & Cultural Affairs Commissioner

Yessenia Anaya, MAR

Jessica Friedman, Campus Center for the Environment, Deconstructing Sustainability Organizer

Hannah Kagan-Moore, UAW 2865 Bylaws Representative

Thirza Rodríguez, Karla Angelica Gonzalez Ocampo, Daisy Cuevas, Johana Mendoza Berrios, Kyla Burke,

Marcela Alvarez, Graciela Del Rio, Juanita Perez, Ruth Iniguez, Edwin Roque, Ryan Abusaa, Sandra

Angelica Ramirez Merida, Carmen Palao, Daniela De La Cruz, Shehzad Lokhandwalla, Alexandra Bischak,

Christina Bina, Teresa Datar, Tiffany Giang, Liala Zaray, Drucella Anne Miranda, Rebecca Rodríguez, Edgar

Nuñez, Stephanie Rivera, Sergio Silva Jaramillo, Azka Fayyaz, Patricia Salazar, Roxana Sierra, Mina

Arasteh, Simon Lambert, Monica Rivera, Lynn Ayala, Alida Duncan, Nicholas Sanchez, Diana Mabel Cruz,

Casey Miller, Esmeralda Raya, Esteban Zamora, Gilbert Gammad, Alexander Ball, Melissa Elizalde, Jesus

Flores Rodriguez, Leah Daugherty, Nomin Boldbaatar, Amy Hoang, Austin Abshire, Elliot Serena, Hannah

Piatt, Ronald O. Rivera, Bryanna Andrews