



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Stanislaus

July 30, 2018

Dr. Sari Miller-Antonio, Chair
Dr. Xamuel Banales, Assistant Professor
Dr. Bao Lo, Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Ethnic Studies

RE: Ethnic Studies Academic Program Review and Implementation Plan

Dear colleagues:

I want to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to visit with you (i.e., department chairperson, dean and faculty members) to discuss the results of your Academic Program Review for the Ethnic Studies program. It was exciting to hear about the extensive work the department has already done on the Draft Implementation Plan. Your program has already accomplished PMO 1 (before the revision) and made substantial progress on two (2) other goals (PMO #2 and PMO #3). Your collaboration with each other, as well as with colleagues at Stan State, is impressive and a true strength of your program. I appreciate your constant self-reflection and focus on continuous improvement...for yourselves and for your students. I was excited to learn about your ambition to grow your program, raise its visibility and centrality to the university as well as your commitment to continuously re-evaluate and revise your curriculum so that it is highly relevant to majors as well as other students at our university. You have a vital, healthy program.

Following your academic program review, I am pleased to accept the recommendation of your college review committee and Dean Tuedio and wholeheartedly approve your program for continuation. I concur with the Revised Implementation Plan provided me following our meeting and look forward to supporting the goals you have established for yourselves.

I want to highlight that, submission of your self-study along with the recommendations from the Chancellor's Task Force on Ethnic Studies Programs, resulted in Stan State already taking steps to address the original PMO #1, which was to create two (2) Tenure -Track faculty positions with expertise in Native American/Indigenous Studies and African American Studies. Those two new faculty arrive at Stan State this August. I am extremely excited those two educators will be joining the Ethnic Studies Program. At the same time, I was so disappointed to learn that Dr. Bao Lo had taken a position at CSU, Sacramento. Her departure is a significant loss to the department. While a search to replace this position will begin this fall, program faculty may want to consider whether you replace Dr. Lo's position or instead advertise for a position with an expertise in Chicana/Latina Studies as your revised implementation plan eloquently describes. This is a decision to be made between program faculty and Dean Tuedio; I highlight it here as a suggestion for consideration. As

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Ethnic Studies just added two positions, it might take time before a fifth position becomes a staffing priority.

I fully support your commitment to revise your curriculum where appropriate and I am enthused by the future courses you plan to create in collaboration with your new faculty colleagues. As we discussed during our meeting, I am hopeful that the Ethnic Studies Program can continue to be closely involved with the development and growth of the University Diversity Center. While I understand and respect the program's request for a Social Justice Center, I think the creation of this center is not something that can happen soon, if ever. However, the Diversity Center opened this year and will be part of the Library renovation (beginning Summer 2019); additionally, the University is currently conducting a search for the Director of the Diversity Center. I think the renovated space in the Library will be a much sought after space for programming and there will be an event center in the Library that could fulfill some of the other needs identified by your program. Similarly, I know Ethnic Studies has much to offer the Diversity Center in terms of co-curricular programming and academic expertise. I see this as a much more viable option than creation of a Social Justice Center at this time with both limited financial resources and space options. Surge space for the Library renovation will be similarly limited (in terms of what will remain after the renovation) and likely would not be ideal long-term accommodations for a center.

Regarding your program's request for increased programmatic funding support, Dean Tuedio and I are both committed to assisting you in acquiring increased operating expenses to support your initiatives. I do not think a student fee is a viable option, but is one that the program can explore. Stan State works to keep student fees low, especially given the percentage of our students who are Pell eligible. You might also consider applying for grants through the President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion (PCDI) as well as Instructionally Related Activities (IRA).

Lastly, I think creation of a Certificate in Ethnic Studies is a sound idea and promising goal; you have my support in pursuing that objective should your program faculty and Dean decide that is a viable goal.

Your department's self-study report is part of the University's official archive that documents your department's contributions toward quality programs and student learning. A summary of the assessment portion of your self-study is submitted for review by the Board of Trustees of the California State University.

I commend you for your dedication to expanding opportunities for students. I encourage you to continue to assess program and student learning outcomes; I also encourage you to continue to explore integrating technology into classes that do not currently utilize technology, expand your on-going collaboration with other departments, and engage students in your research and other high impact practices. Your revised implementation

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plan intersects in many places with both the University Strategic Plan as well as PCDI's Diversity Plan. In those places of intersection with strategic priorities, your program should be able to leverage your objectives/goals to align well with university budget priorities.

Again, I extend my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you and discuss your self-study and implementation plan. I look forward to working with you and supporting your vision for Ethnic Studies at Stan State.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Greer, PhD
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

CC: James Tuedio, Dean, college of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Shawna Young, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Erin Littlepage, Assessment Specialist

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