

CSRC Faculty Advisory Committee Letter to UCLA Chancellor

April 23, 2003

Chancellor Albert Carnesale
2147 Murphy Hall
Campus

Dear Chancellor Carnesale,

On behalf of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC), I write to express the support of our committee for the "Faculty Diversity Initiative" submitted by the four ethnic studies research centers at UCLA. The Faculty Diversity Initiative has received strong support from the legislative caucuses, community leaders, alumni, students, and faculty, and we view it as a comprehensive vision for developing ethnic studies capacity at UCLA.

The initiative has both a campus and a statewide potential. It addresses a projected forty percent increase in students and faculty in the UC system and acknowledges the dramatic increases in the Latino college-age population in California. While this proposal was made at the campus level, it has features that could inform system-wide policy and addresses what UC President Atkinson called the "need for the University of California to recruit a faculty that will meet the expanding demands of the State of California in the new century." The facts speak for themselves: Latinos comprise 43 percent of the college age adults, but just 13 percent of UC undergraduates, 9 percent of UC graduate students, and an unacceptably low 5 percent of the UC faculty.

The initiative lays out a mechanism for UCLA to use some portion of the new faculty hires over the next decade to develop Chicano studies research and teaching. In addition, the initiative provides another tangible approach for diversifying the faculty at the University of California. As proposed by the initiative, the allocation of six new Chicano studies institutional FTE will allow for the appointment of Chicano ethnic studies specialists across a wide range of departments. The initiative thus serves the mission of the Chicano Studies Research Center, enhances curriculum in departments across campus, promotes interdisciplinary instruction in Chicana & Chicano Studies, and contributes to the diversification of the UCLA faculty.

Ultimately, the quality of an academic program or a research center depends on the participation and commitment of the faculty. It was understood that the strength of the Chicano Studies Research Center would be based, to a great degree, on the involvement of faculty in multidisciplinary research and the expansion of Chicano Studies curriculum and instruction across campus. With this in mind, beginning in the mid-1970s, the Chancellor allocated six Institutional Faculty FTEs to the CSRC. The faculty who currently occupy the ethnic studies institutional FTE have excelled in their scholarship, teaching, administrative service to the campus, and community service. It is also clear that this faculty enhanced the ability of the university to recruit and retain a diverse student body at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Now that a quarter century has passed, and with the dramatic changes in the population of the

state, it is time for UCLA to reaffirm its commitment to Chicano studies research and instruction across the campus.

The four ethnic studies research centers that joined to create the Faculty Diversity Initiative are unique in the UC system and continue to provide national leadership in the development of scholarship in African American, American Indian, Asian American, and Chicano studies. They each have outstanding records through their research, publications, library holdings, and community service. These centers also have an outstanding twenty-five year record of collaboration with academic departments in identifying, recruiting and appointing ethnic studies faculty who cover a wide range of disciplines and specializations. They are prepared to add to the accomplishments of this institution in the 21 st century and, with your thoughtful allocation of new faculty positions, the centers can work in partnership with departments throughout the campus to recruit and appoint new faculty who will contribute to the excellence of the university and provide the ethnic studies and community-based research relevant to the changing state population.

We join with our faculty colleagues, students, community representatives and alumni in support for the Faculty Diversity Initiative.

Sincerely,

Daniel Solorzano, Chair, CSRC Faculty Advisory Committee

Professor and Chair of the Department of Education

Members of the CSRC Faculty Advisory Committee

Clara Chu, Information Studies

Leobardo Estrada, Urban Planning

Hanay Geiogamah, Theater

Laura Gomez, Law

David Hayes-Bautista, Medicine/Public Health

Steven Lopez, Psychology

Reynaldo Macias, Cesar Chavez/Education

Vilma Ortiz, Sociology

Fernando Torres-Gil, SPPSR

Belinda Tucker, Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences

Concepcion Valadez, Education

Abel Valenzuela, Cesar Chavez/Urban Planning

Adrian Soldatenko, Graduate Student, Physics

Andy Ramirez, Undergraduate Student, Cesar Chavez