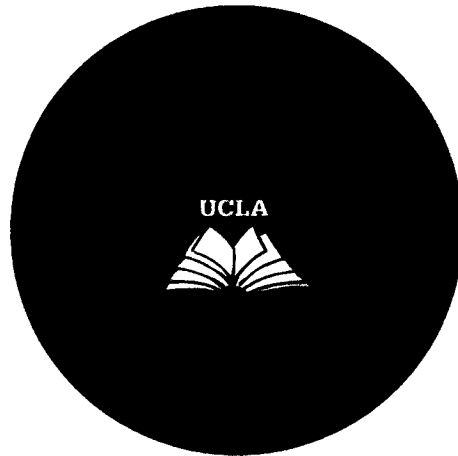


Appendix B

Statement from Reynaldo F. Macías, Acting Dean of Social Sciences



September 15, 2008

Academic Senate
Murphy Hall 3125
140801, Campus

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to convey my enthusiastic support for the proposal to establish graduate programs in the César E. Chávez Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies. These programs will greatly enhance the study of Chicana and Chicano studies, and the academic standing of the Chávez Department. They will establish the Chávez Department as a premier research and training program in the urban community with the second largest number of people of Mexican origin, after México City, in the world, and the largest Chicana/o and Latino populations in the United States. The Chicana/o Latino population is the fastest growing group, and the second largest ethnic group, in the country, and it is the plurality in California. These programs will further UCLA's commitment to scholarship of this important segment of our local and national community.

Since its inception, the Chávez Department has continually built its reputation on an imaginative and interdisciplinary curriculum embracing the history, sociology, politics, economics and arts of the Chicano/a and Latina/o experiences as variously seen through the lenses of gender, race, class, and culture. Its resident and associated faculty represent the finest level of academic scholarship, and the advanced degree programs they have crafted will train the next generation of scholars who will carry on this academic legacy.

My endorsement carries with it certain resource obligations to the program. The Chávez Department's current academic and administrative structures are sufficient to support these programs, though the proposal addresses a future expansion in some areas. I support these proposals, though my limited resources—further eroded by the university's current budget reductions—preclude me from finding them in the immediate future.

Faculty

As currently constituted, the Chávez Department's eleven permanent faculty members are of the highest caliber, and I'm committed to maintaining the permanent faculty. In addition, I will seek to maintain the current level of buyout and temporary teaching support, though the mandated budget reductions have cut significantly into the division's instruction pool.

Teaching Assistance

The Chávez Department currently receives 2.50 FTE in Teaching Assistance support. Teaching assistance is evaluated every year in terms of need and resources, and if the addition of the graduate program requires additional TA resources, I am prepared to augment the budget. These considerations are linked closely to graduate support, so further exploration of these areas is needed.

Operating Resources

Again, the mandated budget reductions to the Division severely limit what I can do to augment the program's budget, though I am cognizant that the Department's supplies and expense budget is strained to the limit. I'm currently trying to find ways to address this problem. Staffing seems to be adequate for the moment, though I am also cognizant that a significant rise in graduate student population may eventually call for a graduate student affairs officer.

Graduate Support

It will be important that the Chávez Department begin immediately to work with the Development Office to cultivate donors for graduate support in the Department. Support from the graduate division will likely not be sufficient to address the full recruiting needs of the program. In addition, the Department should develop a vigorous summer sessions program as a revenue source for graduate support.


Space

The shortage of space in the social sciences division is at a crisis level. The accommodation of graduate student needs will require negotiation and compromise among Bunche Hall's departmental residents, each of which have expansion needs of their own. I am committed to facilitating this process.

The establishment of these graduate programs will contribute to the numerical growth of graduate students in the Division, a priority and goal. The Division has the lowest ratio of graduate students to undergraduate students in the College and we are planning to increase the number of graduate students to remedy this.

The Division of Social Sciences takes great pride in counting the Chávez Department as one of its stellar academic programs. Its faculty are known for their scholarship, collegiality, dedication and service to their programs, the Division, and the University. Together they have forged an excellent program, sometimes under the greatest strains of growth and change. This tenacity and durability has given them great strength and energy. This strength, I believe, will serve their graduate students well, and it will be an energy that will infuse the next generation of academics and scholars.

Sincerely,



Reynaldo F. Macías
Acting Dean, Social Sciences

cc: Alicia Gaspar de Alba
Marc Mayerson