



Our Way Forward: Confronting White Supremacy & Heteropatriarchy Chicanx/Latinx Caucus Demands

FALL 2022

1) CONTESTING LANGUAGE, REPRESENTATION AND CHICANX/LATINX HISTORICAL MEMORY. For nearly two centuries, Mexicans, Chicanos and Latinx communities have faced racist and reductive stereotypes in U.S. popular media, culture, and academia. In popular culture we continue to dialogue about race overwhelmingly within a Black/White binary. While there have been many achievements in the U.S. over the last sixty years to counter the invisibility of Chicanx/Latinx communities and representation, we see continued invisibility and erasure of the historic contributions of diverse Latinx communities in the news, fiction and non-fiction films, literary narratives and more.

We contest the use of current language and (1) urge that we move beyond acronyms that invisibilize Latinx and other communities. Our CSU students are demographically diverse, and we should diminish the use of POC and BIPOC acronyms and use specific language e.g., Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian and Pacific Islander, Southeast Asian and encourage use of regional identities and self-identifying language e.g., Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Zapotec, Maya, when referring to communities from Mexico, Central American, the Caribbean, and South America. (2) We demand inclusivity of our LGBTQIA+ and mixed race communities when we discuss Latinx communities, e.g. Afro-Latinx, Black-Latinx, Asian-Latinx and the complexity of mixed Latinx communities, e.g. Mexican-Salvadoran, Mexican-Irish, Puerto Rican-Chicana, etc. (3) We advocate for specific use for all groups e.g. use Korean, Filipino (rather than Asian) or Haitian, Jamaican (rather than Caribbean) and (4) We demand that we dismantle the trope and myth of Chicanx and Latinx communities as “monolithic” and “new arrivals” and promote the complex and historical legacy of Chicanx/Latinx contributions to the state of California and the nation. This includes, looking within to confront white supremacy and heteropatriarchy within Spanish and Mexican settler colonialism in relation to Indigenous communities both in the U.S. and Latin America.

2) UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS. We demand that (1) we reframe the notion of Immigration to include our “global undocumented” students who arrive in California from around the world and not only from Mexico and Central America. Immigration, migration, and diasporic communities are in dynamic flux, and we need to be inclusive and holistic in our work with immigrant communities, inclusive of our undocuqueer and undocutrans communities. In addition, many of our students are from immigrant “mix-status” families and networks. We (2) demand that while we support our “Dreamers,” we challenge the “model minority, exceptionalism, and dreamer’s” trope to be inclusive of all undocumented students and rename “Dreamer’s Centers” to a more inclusive language. 3) We demand citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants and 4) we demand more vigorous political action and legislative advocacy e.g. The VISION Act -ICE out of California. The VISION Act (AB 937-Carrillo) authored by Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo, was introduced in the California state 2021 legislative session. The VISION Act passed the Assembly and is currently on the Senate Floor in the 2022 legislative session.

3) ABOLITION AND CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY. We demand that we (1) examine more deeply the grievances against Latinx, Black, Indigenous, Palestinian, Asian and DESI faculty and students who are racially profiled by campus police and support the creation of non-Administrative campus police oversight committees, including faculty and student members, We (2) demand accountability and communication from campus police and from our CSU Administrators for formal apology to survivors of campus violence and discrimination and when there is a breach in campus police behavior, We (3) demand the defunding of U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs & Border Protection (CBP) and Police & Sheriff Deputies , including the end to collaboration between these forces. When we advocate to Defund or Abolish Police we include Defund and Abolish ICE and the carceral site of Immigration Detention Centers. See Immigration Task Force "Resolution to Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform," passed Spring 2022.

4) PROGRESSIVE HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS. In California, 21 out of 23 CSU's are currently designated Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) defined as colleges or universities where at least 25 percent of the undergraduate full-time enrollment is Hispanic; and at least half of the institution's degree-seeking students must be low-income. We demand that (1) we forge a "progressive HSI agenda" that includes the complexity of our CFA anti-racism and social justice goals. Dr. Theresa Montano, Chicana/o Studies Department, CSU Northridge, articulated in the HSI conference, "Beyond Words: Advancing Equity and Justice in the HSI's," held December 2021 at Cal State LA, that our "anti-racism and social justice work, including anti-blackness and Indigenous invisibility require structural economic support and are critical to a progressive Hispanic Service Institution. This is in alignment with the roots of Black/Brown solidarity which were found in praxis in the first decade of Chicano and Pan African Studies and should not be forgotten." We (2) demand examining HSI's that are simultaneously, Asian American & Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (e.g., Cal State LA) and connect this examination with an intersectional antiracist and social justice lens and our CFA AB1460 Ethnic Studies Curriculum work that includes: American Indian, Chicanx Latinx, Black and Asian and Asian American Studies and the redress of our Black communities who comprise inequitably low enrollment in the CSU system.

Structural change requires economic investment. We demand that (3) the CSU examine the use of public funding to provide the necessary resources for successful graduation rates in the Chicanx Latinx communities. Economic resources protect and nurture our Chicanx Latinx faculty and students and create structural change not empty words of "diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging." (4) Our students need direct mental health counseling sessions. Hiring additional counselors that are culturally trained to support our students supports our teaching. (5) We need to increase the tenure-track density of Chicanx/Latinx Faculty members. While 21 of our 23 campuses are HSI-designated, the tenure-track density of Chicanx/Latinx Faculty does not reflect this student body. In addition, many hired faculty are not retained, and few are promoted to full professorship. (6) Aligned with our contract, we want qualified Chicanx/Latinx Lecturer Faculty to have a pathway to a Tenure-Track position. This pathway will serve HSI institutions in hiring more faculty who self-identify as Chicanx or Latinx and is a response to the need of our students to see themselves reflected in our faculty body.

5) REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE. We demand that when we discuss Latina Reproductive Rights and Justice (1) we move beyond the language of “choice” and “access to abortions” to a wholistic Reproductive Justice lens that includes the organizing legacy that centered on race, class, and the sterilization for Black, Indigenous, Latinx and Asian American women and the intersectional Reproductive Justice grassroots feminist organizing that continues today. We also (2) demand that we all amplify our collective work in our political action and legislature to protect our faculty and student reproductive rights and privacy of medical records. To protect our students, (3) We demand that no student mental health counseling and medical health work be conducted with third party vendors and, with states that are anti-choice, e.g., Texas. We are cognizant that primarily working-class Latina, Black, trans women and pregnant people, will be severely impacted by the recent Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision and it is expected that thousands of girls and women, migrant and undocumented women will come to California and Mexico to seek abortions. We recognize that paid parental leave and access to affordable childcare is a critical component of reproductive justice, as such we demand (4) the expansion of the CSU’s paid parental leave and access to affordable childcare for all Lecturer, Tenure-Track and Tenure faculty and (5) consideration for parental leave and multiple forms of caregiving.

6) RENAMING OF BUILDINGS AND WHITE SUPREMACY. We demand the (1) Renaming of buildings and removal of symbols that idolize and memorialize figures that promote racist, xenophobia, white supremacist ideologies. This demand is in response to a national movement among campuses to rename buildings and monuments that memorialize white supremacy, eugenics, and/or individuals who hold a troubling legacy supporting racist ideas. It is past time that our institutions reflect the diversity values they so strongly promote by addressing the names of buildings and removal of symbols. These actions are steps against institutionalized racism, nativism and oppression, and a tangible way to create a more welcoming environment for Black, Chicanx/Latinx, Indigenous, Native American, and Asian and Pacific Islander community members.