

UC San Diego and Black Student Union Sign Agreement, Announce Common Goals

Students and administration agree on actions to create a campus that respects differences and ensures diversity

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The University of California, San Diego reports success in defining common goals at today's meeting between senior administrators, faculty and students, led by Black Student Union co-chairs David Ritcherson and Fnnan Keflezighi to address diversity issues to improve the campus climate. The adopted recommendations aim to move the university past hurtful incidents and improve the campus climate by enhancing diversity on the campus, in the curriculum and throughout the UC San Diego community.

"We're pleased to see such a great exchange of ideas today. We now have a signed agreement to move forward," said UC San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox. "We applaud our student leaders, the campus and the San Diego community for their engagement, passion and leadership on finding solutions to these issues. Although there is much work ahead of us, our ongoing partnership will build a healthier campus climate that supports everyone in a meaningful way."

A joint statement noted: "The UC San Diego administration and students have engaged in a productive wide-ranging conversation about how our common goals can be reached. The conversations of this week show that there is a commitment from all participants to work together for the benefit of the entire campus."

The administration and students collectively determined measurable steps and concrete milestones to ensure that UC San Diego moves forward in working with students, faculty and staff on complex and vital issues. Suggestions that resulted from meetings during the past week include enhancing programs the campus already has in place to target first-generation and low-income students, attract and retain qualified and diverse faculty, and ensure that the university provides a curriculum that reflects the cultural richness of the state and region.

The campus community will put into action the following recommendations, among others:

Admissions:

Fund for three years BSU-initiated yield programs to increase the diversity of the undergraduate student body; work to diversify the graduate student applicant pool and induct more members into the Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, which promotes diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate.

Curriculum:

Fund the program coordinator position for the African American Studies Minor and Chicano/a Latino/a Arts and Humanities Minor; review requests from the Colleges to establish campuswide diversity curricular requirements for undergraduates, to supplement the requirements already in place in the Colleges.

Culture:

Identify appropriate places on campus for the display of outdoor and/or indoor, permanent and/or rotating art representative of underrepresented minority communities; extend the exhibition of the Chicano Legacy mural so that it can be made permanent.

Faculty:

Create a task force to promote the recruitment, support and retention of underrepresented faculty; make sure that all faculty searches adhere to best practices on diversity considerations; as funding becomes available, reactivate six unfilled faculty positions dedicated to African Diaspora, Indigenous Studies or California Cultures; allocate three new faculty positions over the next three years for hires that will enhance diversity.

Resources:

Match funds from student fees for Student Promoted Access Center for Education and Service (SPACES), where students collaborate to achieve greater educational equity; meet with students to determine details for African American, Native American and Chicano Resource Centers, and assess patterns of use for these resources; ensure continued supplemental funding for the Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services (OASIS), a learning center at UC San Diego, for the 2010-11 academic year; establish a new Campus Climate Commission to examine the campus climate and the university's diversity-related efforts, and make additional recommendations for future action; consider additional resources for diversity efforts as part of the Campus Climate Commission that is being established.

Research, Student Conduct and Other Actions:

Work with interested faculty members to establish an Organized Research Unit (ORU) or Center related to African American, Chicano and Native American-indigenous communities; rewrite the Student Code of Conduct, requiring students to adhere to the Principles of Community to the maximum extent permitted by the First Amendment; identify suitable naming opportunities for colleges and buildings, and review the naming processes; continue to engage both the Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee, the U.S. Department of Interior, and the UC San Diego faculty in seeking resolution to the disposition of human remains found as a result of University House excavation efforts.

These actions are only part of the university's numerous on-going efforts to promote diversity on campus and ensure an open and welcoming environment. Students, staff, faculty and the San Diego community will continue to work together to rebuild and restore the university community.

For more information, please visit the UC San Diego "Battle Hate" website at <http://battlehate.ucsd.edu>. Media Contact:

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