

*We are UCSD*

By Alex Morrow

We are UCSD.

We are united as a student body

We are diverse and liberal students.

We are future leaders of the world in all sciences, whether it be social or physical.

We have no binary for race or ethnicity, and we are accepting.

We stand up for what we believe in, and support each other when we are down.

We are not afraid exhibit free speech and thought.

We challenge authority when needed and suggest changes for our community.

We are creators of new ideas, inventions, and attitudes.

We represent the people of innovation and forward thinking.

We are UCSD.

### Reading Response #5

After living on campus and attending classes at UCSD for one quarter, I have realized that the campus climate is extremely liberal and diverse. Just as Kong's dissertation suggests; I have noticed that UCSD still does not have an Asian American resource center and many of the clubs that are available for Asian Americans only have events revolving around culture and food. Furthermore, according to the UCSD demographics as of 2015 46% of the students were considered "Asian," yet there is not specification as to what type of Asian descent those students have. From my eyes, after reading Kong's dissertation I do not believe that the campus climate has changed that much. However, there have been some events and incidents on campus that have led me to believe that the student body is more unified as a whole.

A few weeks ago, a group of unidentified individuals, presumably students on campus, chalked the grounds of UCSD with offensive phrases and sayings. Some of the chalkings targeted Mexican immigrants, Islamic people, and minorities overall. Some stated "Tritons 4 Trump" and "Stop radical Islam." The phrases were written not only Library Walk and the transit center, but also in front of the Raza Resource Center. A few weeks later, the chalkings happened again stating similar phrases. The chalkings offended not just the groups being targeted, but the campus as a whole. The university left the students feeling angry and upset, especially since it took them days to write a formal response to the incident. Personally, I felt a little unsafe on campus, I felt like we as UCSD students were vulnerable to the outside. However, through class discussions and the reassurance from professors, teaching aids, and friends; I as a student was able to feel comfortable again.

Another example of UCSD's climate is the student protest after hearing about the results of the 2016 Presidential election. Obviously, students were infuriated, along with many other people across the country about the election of Donald Trump as President. The reason behind that is because of many claims and statement Trump has said, and his ideas which enhance sexism, xenophobia, islamophobia, and other fears that people have. After the election on Tuesday night, many students on UCSD's campus rose to protest the unexpected results of the election. Not for a hatred of trump himself, but for a disgust of Trumps ideas and statements that target minority groups. On Wednesday morning, new chalkings were found on campus. Not ones like before, but ones that were drawings of peace signs, phrases saying "Love Trumps hate," and other personable messages. To me, these messages truly represent the campus climate. The messages provided reassurance and heartwarming comfort for students around campus.

This is my view of the campus climate. We as students rise up for what we believe in and we support one another when bad incidents or events make people feel targeted and alone. We are united, because we can freely discuss social and political issues and rebut those ideas.