

CAT Response

Micro-story: “What’s your major?”

“I’m a Poli-Sci major! How about you?”

“Really? I’m a Poli-Sci major as well!!!”

I have gotten so used to being overly excited when I meet another UC San Diego student who majors in Political Science. Even in my current Comparative Politics class, most students take the course only to fulfill their GE requirements. And most of my friends and fellow Sixers are either a Biology, Chemistry, or Computer Science major. Attending such a huge college like UCSD, it sometimes gets discouraging for a poli-sci major like me, from only knowing a handful of fellow poli-sci majors to feeling isolated from most folks on campus, especially around the time of the presidential election this year, with all the unprecedented and exciting things to discuss and hardly anybody to engage in a discussion with. Aside from that, most students here consider Poli-Sci to be an extremely easy major in comparison to others, especially STEMs, so they either presume I have a lot of free time on my hands or simply am not qualified for other majors. This demonstrates to me a politically-passive campus climate that is not paying enough attention on relevant and important issues going on in the world. Hopefully, there will be more events like the anti-Trump protest a few weeks back to get more students excited about the world of politics.

Kong’s analysis essay: As an Asian-American first-generation student enrolling in and struggling through my first quarter at UC San Diego, my experiences so far of the campus climate do indeed correlate with Angela Kong’s analysis of the Voices of Asian American Students and the Politics of Diversity Policy in chapter 4 of *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*, undoubtedly reinforcing my view of the university, particularly with the passive stance of Asian American students at UCSD on political affairs on and off campus.

In the reading, Kong mentioned the dangerous fact that almost all Asian American and Pacific Islander student organizations on campus are unaware of numerous of “important political issues concerning their communities.” The author goes further to explain that this is due primarily to the lack of adequate knowledge of their own struggles as a minority and histories prior to attending college, since Asian American history is hardly taught within the U.S. History courses in high school. The paucity of Asian American studies and courses at UCSD, among other UC campuses, only adds to this fact. The visible result is that these student organizations

put their time and focus and efforts solely on the social and cultural aspects, completely ignore pertinent political activities and events. This analysis becomes much apparent to me for being an active member of the Vietnamese Student Association, I recall not a single educational or political event was held the entire quarter by the board of officers, not even post-election when the whole country was erupting with pervasive protests and horrifying incidents of racism that targets Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Ultimately, from my perspectives of the campus so far, Kong paints an excellent and accurate portrait of the racial, cultural, social, and political climate at UC San Diego.

Works Cited

Kong, Angela. *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*. Rep. San Diego: n.p., 2014. Web. 27 Nov. 2016.