

Associated Students

Resolution **XX** 6

Author: Shailah Arreola- Bittner

Signature: Shailah Arreola-Bittner

Co-Author: Maricela Vazquez-Aviles

Signature: ___Maricela Vasquez-Aviles_____

Subject: Date: 05/27/2020

Whereas: Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and the discrimination and violence going on all around the United States, marginalized communities have been most impacted and require a place where they don't feel outcast. Some marginalized communities at Mt San Antonio College, such as ARISE, ASPIRE, and the DREAM programs, are given spaces and resources so they feel properly equipped and secure to handle the college experience, especially during these difficult times. Mt. SAC claims to be a Hispanic serving institution, yet Chicanx/Latinx students at Mt. SAC currently does not have a program that specifically addresses their needs.

Whereas: In the Spring semester of 2019, the Bridge Program expanded to incorporate "El Centro," so that Chicanx, Latinx, and other students with related interests would be able to study, receive assistance and referrals, have access to computers, and receive information about cultural and community events related to Latinx/Chicanx issues and concerns. However, the space is so small that no more than 5 people fit in a room that has no table to study, a computer, and no referral assistance. The current El Centro should be expanded so that it becomes a program that is capable of providing for the needs of Latinx students. Such expansions include but are not limited to: a full staff consisting of a coordinator, student staff, faculty and counselors that reflects the various Chicanx and Latinx identities, a specialized and expanded space that is not housed nor limited within another center, the creation of a learning community by linking El Centro and other Ethnic and Gender Studies classes, as well as establishing an online presence for El Centro that is linked to the Mt. SAC website.

Whereas: Having El Centro as its own program will benefit the Latinx/ Chicanx community at Mt. SAC by allowing them to have their community's specialized needs met in a way that cannot be handled by general programs. By creating a more robust program that provides Latinx/Chicanx students with a multifaceted academic support system, Mt.SAC will be ensuring that they not only have the tools they need to succeed but that they feel comfortable reaching for those tools because it is in a space where

they feel accurately represented.

Whereas: Mt. SAC Associated Students has an obligation to advocate on behalf of marginalized communities within the student body to give them a voice. Given this responsibility, it is important that AS addresses the needs and concerns of students in order to create a more inclusive learning environment for Chicax/ Latinx students.

Whereas: By Mt. SAC fully funding El Centro as an equity program will allow Latinx/Chicax students at Mt. SAC to feel more at home and safe in our collegial environment. It will also allow Mt. SAC to fulfil its goal of being a Hispanic Serving institution.

Therefore: Be it resolved, that Mt. SAC Associated Students request that student input be included in any programming decisions for the expanded El Centro

Therefore: Be it resolved, that the A.S. Senate, the A.S. Executive Board, and the A.S. President approve **the request to improve and expand El Centro to include the above changes.**

For: _____ Against: **Unanimous** Abstain: _____ Date: **6/2/20**

For: _____ Against: **Unanimous** Abstain: _____ Date: **6/2/20**

Approve Veto Signature: _____ Date: _____
