

Department Meeting Minutes

Ethnic Studies

April 16th, 2026

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Meeting ID: 825 2475 0756

Attendees: Larry McDaniel, Aaron Salinger, Julissa Contreras Castenon, Dr. Mica Stewart, Prahas Rudraraju, Silvia Toscano, Michael Vasquez, Dede Dede

Welcome, Introductions, and Check-In - Everyone checked in

1) Announcements/General Updates/Good News

- a) Academic Senate (Michael) - Spot and RSI might get new regulations for recertification. New Rubric. In person classes might have RSI regulations in Canvas. DEISA+ will have pgi - sustainability and Rising Scholars. If you are proposing a new course COR is due May 31st. Get it to chair before then.
Ivan Sanchez from Sociology is working for POD and wants ES to do a short Podcast. Dede would like to help with the podcast
- b) Faculty Association (Michael) - Shirts are coming soon. California wide conference coming soon. People will be fighting the removal of diversity positions.
Winter session, Spring, Summer, Fall. They are thinking of removing winter and giving us a spring break and giving two summer sessions. Dept will be able to vote when proposals are on the table.
- c) WOCAN (Silvia) - Silvia Co-Presented. Andi went. Ancestral capital as a career path. There will be a Counselor conference that they were invited to present at too. There could be potential funding coming in for LA Indigenous alliance.
- d) MOCAN (Larry)- Dede and Larry went. Dr. Joe Luis was keynote. Students appreciated and connected with speech. Dede shared that Mt SAC did a great job with the execution of the conference.
- e) Seeding Change Event (April, Michael, Prahas) - To honor the farmworkers movement. To speak to hidden voices and leaders especially in light of recent news regarding Chavez. Before that they were already planning to speak about women and Filipino leaders. Students/audience asked questions on a padlet. It was a great way to get ES out of the classroom. Larry's students really enjoyed it. If Prahas can find the Padlet they will share it.

- f) APAHE (Prahas) - Sun - Tues. large student community college attendance. Prahas learned a lot about how to support students and some new things to bring into their classroom. Some of their KPLC with communications students presented. Mt SAC looks like a leader in these spaces.
- g) HSS conference May 8th. Relationships, healing. Dr. Mica is the keynote speaker 9:45-11:00 and a breakout session.
- h) Dr. Mica wants to help with the video and has a handbook about the department.

Student Concerns

- i) Workman Elementary (DeDe) - Based on the context of work in the class room, some students started to say that other students were using the N word. Principal wanted context. Dede expressed that there was a culture on the campus using the word openly. After Dede spoke with them DeDe got the email and thinks they were a referral, but it doesn't look like it. Perhaps they will go with other faculty but it seems like this is an issue at many highschoools. DeDe and Julissa can work with DeDe to prepare something if they are called on to present. Julissa received the same email.
- j) Q about Substitute request in department or HSS (Prahas) Prahas has a student concern. Late start class. Monday class was canceled due to conference. There are other obligations that will require a sub. 2 two hour classes. Does the sub need the min quals for that discipline? Dr. Mica will look for min quals regs. If we can sub for each other Dr. Mica might be able to cover Prahas classes 4/29

Student commented that the day Hitler died was a bad day, though it was not an explicit comment. He didn't want to say more because he didn't feel his thoughts were "politically correct".

DeDe and Larry have online discussions. That allows for accountability in that other students can see their comments. Make sure that the questions are asking specific things so that they have accountability in their answers. Students can hold them accountable.

2) Campus and Community Concerns

- a) Mediation for Overlap with Fashion and Family & Consumer Studies (Larry) - They wanted to collab. Larry declined. They decided to move forward any way with ES courses. We are moving into mediation. 1st course Family and housing, redlining and property segregation proposed for Area F Race and Ethnicity and Fashion. No subjects or areas for transfer but we are assuming they want area F. Deans are involved

These courses are not Ethnic Studies. Simply talking about race doesn't make a class ES> How are they moving forward without Min Quals.?

- b) Mediation with Theater Department - Chair was asked to remove ES prefix from Script writing and analysis. They will not and want to honor the hard labor of those who created the course. This class was revised last fall and there was an opportunity to speak to our dept and they decided not to talk to us, and to move forward with area F.

We shouldn't let the ed team allow this to go to CSU. Other disciplines shouldn't make courses in other disciplines.

Dr. Mica thinks that Theatre and fashion submitted before the min qual requirement. It is possible they were grandfathered in. If the courses are grandfathered in there still are not any professors in their depts with Min Quals in ES.

Larry was here when they created their courses and they did not consult with him.

If there is no resolution from remediation we will file a grievance with Chancellor's office.

3) Standing Department Meeting Discussion

- a) Results of full-time faculty vote - Majority of votes are for 3- 5pm Thurs. Starting spring 2027. No courses are scheduled at that time to make sure that everyone can make the meeting.
- b) Discussion - No one shared any thoughts.
- c) Department Meeting logistics

4) Department Chair Office Hours - T/R 3 - 4:30

5) Course Updates and Discussion:

- a) ETHS Honors Course: Special Topics

6) Events & Partnerships

- a) UCLA TEP Partnership - They want to partner with our ES dept to create a program, connection between the two programs.
Cal State LA also wants to colab with our dept.
- b) ARISE Learning Community (Prahas) - Public speaking is starting for the next 8 weeks.
- c) CYLC Fellowship Advisor (Aaron) - Aaron has 4 fellows who will work with Non Profits and receive \$15,000 over the course of the next 9 months.
- d) Field trip Rising Scholars, El Centro, President's Office (Aaron) May 6th going to the Cheech in Riverside, Ca., with Dr. Garcia.

7) ETHS Shared Canvas Shell Presentation (Larry) - Larry has been working on a shared shell. Important info like absence reporting link, program review, minutes, CORs,

and other info.

There are modules to share info and aspects of our classes.

There are dept resources. Area F, Canva, Kahoot, Padlet, links, tutorials, prof development.

Share your materials, but keep it organized so we can find things.

8) Revising of departmental website (Larry) Look through the website as homework so that we have a collective voice on the website.

9) Resources and Opportunities:

- a) Podcasting opportunity with POD
- b) Mt. SAC Free Food program for students
 - i)  Mountie Share.jpg If student scans QR code and they will be signed up to receive free food. They will not
- c) The Force Awakens: NEA Social Justice and Equity Conference- Table to next meeting all in favor