

Department Meeting Minutes

Ethnic Studies

March 19th, 2026

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Meeting ID: 825 2475 0756

Attendees: Larry McDaniel, Aaron Salinger, Prahaz Rudraraju, Joshua Redwine, Dede Dede, Dr. Mica, Julissa Contreras Castanon, Silvia Toscano, April Tellez, Michael Vásquez

Welcome, Introductions, and Check-In - Everyone introduced themselves, said how they are, what they teach, and how long they have been at Mt. SAC!

1) Announcements/General Updates/Good News

- a) Academic Senate (Michael)
 - i) Discontent with limited faculty voice at higher levels
Reduction in library size, elimination of tutoring. Vote to express that faculty needs more voice in these issues.
Vote of no confidence for VP of student services. Restructuring plan came from them.
- b) Faculty Association (Michael)
 - i) Shirt sizes! Michael will deliver shirts if you give him your shirt size
 - ii) CCA Conference - A removal of positions. Former FA president (Eric K) of Mt SAC proposed removing equity related positions. Will be voted on in April
- c) DEISA+ PGI (Michael)- Now live, there is PGI for DEISA+. Needs to be clearly DEISA plus. Training can be from be from July 2024 - ask Michael if you have any question.
- d) ReadyEd Conference 3/17-3/18 (Silvia) - First people's native center sponsored Silvia's students for a fire landscape conference.
- e) WOCAN 3/27 (Silvia) Women of color action network. Silvia is presenting. Will send an announcement/reminder. Students might be able to sign up still. Silvia will give us an update.

2) Student Concerns

- a) Clarity on process for students with accommodations (desks, notetakers, etc.) (Silvia) (\$96 for notetakers) ACCESS has been asked to get the desk.
Notetakers can get stipend according to ACCESS.
- b) Insights on student support on sensitive topics as well as healthy outlets for intense emotions arising through curriculum (Silvia)
 - i) Possibly book club
 - ii) Office hours. The fact that you are bringing this up in the first place is probably a huge help for the students.

- iii) Balance heavy negative issues with positive representations too.
 - iv) Embed support into lectures. Add resistance and positive aspects in the end of the lecture.
- c) Question regarding student readers/graders - a student is asking to take on this role if we have a paid role and is willing to volunteer his time if it is unpaid (Prahas) -
 - i) Can hire student workers but not as graders
 - ii) Can have embedded tutors from the writing department - former student to be a tutor in my class
 - iii) Can utilize tutor center as well

3) Campus and Community Concerns

- a) Equivalency Committee: Discipline Expert - There are issues with a lack of experts on the committee. We will need to address this as a dept. Probably after hiring has been completed. We will need to invite experts forward when new positions are applied for. We will have this conversation, probably in the fall.
- b) ASCCC Disciplines List and Minimum Qualifications (Prahas)- Tanya sent an email on March 11. ASCCC is accepting proposal for Disciplines list. We need one person to update the list for ES. We need to say what qualifies as ES rather than others saying for us. If you are interested in working on this contact Larry.
- c) UCLA Ethnic Studies Certificate Program (Vote required)
 - i) [Save UCLA's Ethnic Studies Certificate Program Petition](#)
 UCLA Is trying to defund the program. There is a push to demand the Univ fund this program. We are trying to work with the program in the future. We would need to vote to sign on to the petition.
 This could be precompliance of DEI for fed admin.
 If this program goes away there will be less teachers available to teach in the future to meet the requirement. Ca needs about 2000 more high school teachers to meet the mandate.
 Teachers don't have to pay to participate and receive ES Pedagogy.
 Motion - Prahas
 Second Julissa
 Vote - Unanimous

4) CBE Update (Vote required)

- a)  **ETHS1 Competencies.xlsx**
 Voting to move competencies forward to allow CBE to be grant compliant. This doesn't mean that ES dept is required to participate.
 Foundational concepts, Foundational theories, Intersectionality, contextualizing current issues within historical, intersectional, framework, and structural framework, anti racist social reform.

Motion - Julissa

Second - Dr. Mica

Vote- 10 in favor one abstain

5) Hiring Updates

Search is underway for 2 fulltime positions.

We want to hire more adjuncts. Especially for Dual Enrollment.

6) Budget and Funding Updates

We have not budget. HSS has been asked when we will be funded like everyone else.

We received \$700 in lottery funds. Has to be used for instruction. Can be books.

7) Course Updates and Discussion:

- a) ETHS 2 and Social Justice Major (Michael; Vote Required)

We need to vote to make ES 2 course a requirement for a Social Justice degree

Motion - Prahas

Second - Julissa

Vote - Unanimous approval

- b) Update on New ETHS Courses - process has begun, but is slow and needs to go through the process. Prahas is hoping to add 3 new APPI courses. Might take 1.5- 2years to offer new courses once they have been submitted for review.

Dede would like to participate in curriculum development.

English would like to collaborate.

- c) Honors Course: Special Topics

- d) ETHS Transfer Degree

- i) Prahas Q: Does this entail making ETHS a major? If not, that is a question I have - how do we make ETHS a major?

- e) LCAS 1 5-year Review (Aaron and Silvia)- Program Review with Malkolm R. on 3/16- upload minutes for DL & add new books w/i 5 years (currently w/i Social Justice AA-T)

- f) Distance Learning Update: APIS 1, NAIS 1 (Prahas) Ready to teach online(Fall)
LCAS1 has moved out of our hands on WEBCMS

- g) Course Overlap Review

- h) Departmental Infringement - Larry will have answers soon.

- i) Theater - ETHS 20

- ii) Fashion

- iii) Art History - the chair graciously changed the issues of ES being on their website.

8) Events & Partnerships

- a) AS Funding Request (Julissa and Silvia)

Andi asked us to put something together and propose to associated students. We asked for \$20,000. We have no other funding. We were proposing another ethnic

studies day. Strict guidelines for funding use. Possibly can be used for reading group. Extracurricular workshops fit the guidelines.

- b) Transfer Center College Tour Partnership
 - i)  Norcal 2026 Knowledge is Power Proposal.docx
Want ES norcal college tour. We highlight ES Places, visit schools, go on tour. Funded through transfer center and equity center. Larry will be going. There is space for others. This is in the works now.
- c) UCLA TEP Partnership
- d) Communications, CBCSS, and Equity Partnership
 - i) Black History Month Speech/Writing Contest/Guest Speaker
- e) ARISE Learning Community (Prahas)
- f) Rising Scholars ETHS 1 Course (Michael)
- g) Rising Scholars LCAS 1 Field Trip (Aaron)
- h) CYLC Fellowship Advisor (Aaron)
- i) Field trip Rising Scholars, El Centro, President's office (Aaron)
- j) CBCSS Umoja Learning Community with ETHS, ENG, POLI SCI
We want to create Umoja learning community featuring AABS, MCall's English, Poli Sci
- k) Prahas has KPLC cohort in APS1 and communications
- l) Aaron will have KPLC in fall 2026 LCAS1 and SP1S
- m) Ethnic Studies Reading Group (Joshua)
 - i)  Reading Group Flyer-Schedule.pdf
- n) SEEDING Change (Prahas, Michael, April)
 - i) 3-5pm Thursday 3/26 - Prahas, Michael, and April will be panelists for event with the multicultural center on the farmworkers movement. Please advertise to your students, bring your classes, offer extra credit, etc.

9) ETHS Shared Canvas Shell Presentation

10) Resources and Opportunities:

- a) Podcasting opportunity with POD
- b) Mt. SAC Free Food program for students
 - i)  Mountie Share.jpg
- c) MOCAN Conference
- d) WOCAN Conference
- e) The Force Awakens: NEA Social Justice and Equity Conference

Motion to table remaining items to rest next months meeting. Julissa
Second Dede
Vote unanimous