

**MECHA Student Issues: Indigenous Peoples Fountain, Ethnic Studies/Social Justice Degree, Latinx Center**  
**Audrey Yamagata-Noji March 9, 2019**

**Background:** Mt. SAC MEChA students, supported by resolutions passed by the Associated Students, has requested that the College address the poor condition of the Indigenous Peoples Fountain, create and support Gender and Ethnic Studies, including a Social Justice Degree, and develop a Chicanx/Latinx Cultural Resource Center and Support Program.

A meeting with MEChA students was held in December 2018 to review and clarify their issues and concerns. The Academic Senate presented an update to the Board of Trustees on November 14, 2018, related to Ethnic Studies and the Social Justice degree.

**Indigenous Peoples Fountain:** Located outside the main doors of the Library, the fountain had come into disrepair. It was funded by the Associated students and installed in 2002. To date, the fountain has been cleaned up, repaired (pump and motor assembly), and is presently in good working order. Facilities has a line item budget to maintain the fountain and will make sure it remains in good working order.

**Ethnic Studies/Social Justice Degree:** The current plan is to develop and offer an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) in Social Justice in order to meet the request to offer a degree focused on Ethnic and Gender Studies. To date, two new courses and the ADT in Social Justice are being recommended for approval, possibly at the April 2019 Board of Trustees meeting--SOC 110 - Introduction to Social Justice and SOC 130 - Introduction to LGBTQ Studies. Last academic year, SOC 40 - Introduction to Sex and Gender Roles was created.

**Latinx Center:** Beginning the Spring semester 2019, the Bridge Program will be expanded to incorporate an effort to be named "El Centro." Chicanx, Latinx, and other students with related interests will be able to go to the El Centro office 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. The Summer Bridge program is also expanding and modifying their Summer course offerings to include: LIT 3 - Multicultural American Literature, HIST 40 - History of the Mexican American, POLI 25 - Latino Politics in the U.S., SOC 20 - Ethnic Relations, MUS 15 - Rock Music History and Appreciation, and SPCH 1A - Public Speaking.

**Campus-Wide Efforts:** The Mountie Mentor Meeting for April 2019 will focus on Latinx Contemporary Issues and recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of El Plan de Santa Barbara in April of 1969, which defined Chicano Studies issues and concerns. Administrators are working on a plan to develop a MESA program that will focus on recruiting and preparing Latinx/Chicanx students to become STEM majors.