



In order for their history to be acknowledged by academia and considered worthy of study, students of color have had to protest, riot, boycott, occupy buildings, get arrested, and even risk their lives by going on hunger strikes. Ethnic Studies has been under attack since its inception.

More recently, in the year 2016 while student activists and Mechistas, Alejandro Juarez and Fabian Pavon, went through the proper channels to push for Gender and Ethnic Studies at Mt.SAC, students at Sacramento State went on a hunger strike because the school's historic college of ethnic studies was being targeted for budget cuts.

Since then, AB2772 was vetoed by the Governor of California, students at Cal State University, Northridge are still boycotting and protesting an Executive Order that would damage their Ethnic Studies requirement, and the once banned Mexican American Studies program at Tucson Unified School District in Arizona has been replaced by something called Culturally Responsive Curriculum.

Mt.SAC has taken bold steps in moving forward with Ethnic Studies; however, as Ethnic Studies advocates and majors, we must stay critical of what is going on. In 2016, Mt.SAC's Associated Students passed 4 resolutions. The resolutions are the following:

- 1) Create a Gender and Ethnic Studies section in the schedule of classes
- 2) Create more Gender and Ethnic Studies classes
- 3) Create a Gender and Ethnic Studies Department
- 4) Make it a requirement for students to take a Gender and Ethnic Studies course in order to graduate from Mt.SAC

In 2016, the Academic Senate approved the creation of a so-called "Social Justice" Degree. The students that had the chance to be a part of the multiple task forces that were formed following the approval of such degree have noticed something worth mentioning. They believed that staff and faculty of color have not been adequately represented in the process of the creation of the so-called "Social Justice" Degree. If the voice of the people who have been historically marginalized are not properly represented in the creation of a curriculum that is supposed to center the experiences of the historically marginalized, then can there truly be social justice in the creation of the so-called "Social Justice" Degree?



In addition, some classes that Mt.SAC offers that are considered Ethnic Studies are not offered frequently enough for most Ethnic Studies majors to complete before transferring. This means that most students who major in Ethnic Studies will still have to complete lower division courses for their major when they transfer to a 4 year institution. Furthermore, it has been brought to our attention that some professors, that teach Ethnic Studies courses at Mt.SAC, have been told by their department that those courses will now be offered less frequently.

It is because of the issues stated above that we are here before you today and why MEChA formed a student committee on Gender and Ethnic Studies.

We are here to make the following requests:

1. We want a comprehensive timeline on the progress of the Gender and Ethnic Studies resolutions with frequent updates
2. We want to give input on the types of ethnic studies classes that are being created
3. We want staff and faculty of color to be properly represented in the entire process making it as inclusive as possible
4. We want everyone creating classes, including students, to attend Ethnic Studies conferences hosted by people who have actually taught and fought for Ethnic Studies
5. We want teach-ins on Gender and Ethnic Studies to inform ourselves and others about its history and current state
6. We want Mt.SAC to support other Gender and Ethnic Studies Movements wherever they might be
7. We want the immediate stop to the cutting of Gender and Ethnic Studies classes Mt.SAC currently offers
8. We want existing Gender and Ethnic Studies classes to be offered more frequently

We need Ethnic Studies Now.



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Gender and Ethnic Studies Committee
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