

## **San Diego State University Senate Resolution in Response to the Escalating Anti-Asian Hate in the United States**

**Whereas**, The University Senate has a longstanding commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Specifically, the Senate’s diversity statement indicates that SDSU’s academic and co-curricular programs should reflect all diverse communities and be attentive to: “Freedom from discrimination, harassment, and violence against persons or property is a basic right and is requisite for learning”; and

**Whereas**, San Diego State University (SDSU) is located in San Diego County, which is home to 440,660 Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) persons, who represent one out of every seven residents and is the fastest-growing racial group in the County; and

**Whereas**, SDSU consists of 13.4% students who identify as APIDA; and

**Whereas**, Harassment and violence against APIDA persons have increased<sup>1</sup> since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic due to inflammatory and racist rhetoric; and

**Whereas**, Racist incidents against APIDA persons in San Diego county<sup>23</sup> and SDSU mirror national trends; and

**Whereas**, The increase in hate crimes against APIDA persons is a direct result of white supremacist, anti-Asian xenophobia, and yellow peril that have persisted in the United States since the 19th century positioning APIDA persons as “perpetual foreigners”; and

**Whereas**, The increase in hate crimes against women of Asian descent cannot be separated from the racism and sexism represented and is also a direct result of the hypersexualization and fetishization of Asian women (and other women of color); and

**Whereas**, The “Model Minority Myth”<sup>4</sup> by which APIDA persons are deemed self-sufficient and as such requiring neither assistance nor attention, and the resultant widespread gaslighting of anti-Asian racism – ranging from incidents to violent hate crimes, occurring nationally – is a real threat at SDSU; and

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<sup>1</sup> Asian Americans have been verbally and physically attacked, shunned during pandemic, study shows <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-03-16/anti-asian-hate-pandemic>

<sup>2</sup> San Diego’s Spike In Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans Mirrors National Trend <https://www.kpbs.org/news/2021/mar/04/nationwide-rise-hate-incidents-against-asian-ameri/>

<sup>3</sup> There Were 3,800 Anti-Asian Racist Incidents, Mostly Against Women, in Past Year <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/national-international/there-were-3800-anti-asian-racist-incidents-mostly-against-women-in-past-year/2551010/>

<sup>4</sup> The Model Minority Myth <https://thepractice.law.harvard.edu/article/the-model-minority-myth/>

**Whereas**, In response to these incidents of racial violence targeting APIDA communities, President de la Torre, Vice President of Student Affairs J. Luke Wood, and APIDA Center Director Virginia Loh-Hagan released a statement noting: “Solidarity and community are key. We must lean into difficult conversations, speak up against discrimination and hate-motivated actions, and stand together to support our APIDA communities”; and

**Whereas**, The SDSU APIDA Resource Center’s solidarity statement states, “SDSU APIDA Resource Center denounces all acts of intolerance, hate, and discrimination. We urge all persons to stand in solidarity with the APIDA community against racist sentiments. We want all of our community members, especially those who identify as APIDA, to know that we see you, care about you, and support you. We will rise above the anti-Asian sentiment caused by local, national, and global conversations concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. We will act with care and compassion for those impacted by COVID-19. We will be kinder, braver, and stronger for those who feel targeted and vulnerable. We will work together to create a safe, supportive space. All are welcome here”; and

**Whereas**, SDSU has a Center for Asian and Pacific Studies that has a mission “to prepare our students to thrive in an environment impacted by globalization by imparting knowledge of and insight on the dynamic Asian societies and cultures at the forefront of change”; and

**Whereas**, SDSU has a department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages that supports the learning of Asian languages such as Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, and Korean; and

**Whereas**, SDSU has a Chinese Cultural Center and a Division of International Affairs that seek to increase international and binational awareness and to develop globally-conscious citizens; and

**Whereas**, SDSU should be a place where all faculty, staff, administrators, and students have the right to study and work in a safe environment free of racism, discrimination, intolerance, and violence; and

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the SDSU University Senate condemns acts of hatred and violence toward Asian American Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) persons by urging CSU Chancellor Joseph I, Castro, the CSU Chancellor’s Office, the Academic Senate of the CSU, President de la Torre, the SDSU Administration, appropriate Senate

and campus committees, and all members of the campus community to support and, where authorized and appropriate, to enact the following:

- Support the APIDA Resource Center's [Pledge](#) to Take Action In Support of the APIDA Community by committing to create a welcoming and safe campus climate for our APIDA community
- Elevate and expand current Asian American Studies classes
- Establish an Asian American Studies program, including a minor and major program
- Re-establish a department of Asian American Studies (which was approved by SDSU University Senate in the 1990s) and hire a Chair and faculty who are specifically trained in Asian American studies
- Disaggregate data of APIDA and Asian students, faculty, and staff in order to receive adequate funding and resource allocations as are provided to Under-Represented Minorities (URM)
- Encourage ongoing critical reflections, conversations, and intentional efforts – such as educating from culturally appropriate curriculum – in addressing racial, social, and economic injustices and inequities, especially within the APIDA communities, thereby further humanizing APIDA community members
- Encourage ongoing efforts to improve employment practices – such as in advertising, applicant screening, hiring committee appointments, and interview processes – to recruit, hire, train, and retain APIDA faculty and staff, both full-time and part-time
- Encourage the documentation and investigation of all reported incidents in order to promote respect and protection of the APIDA community
- Participate in training and professional development that address anti-bias, anti-racism, etc.
- Encourage other units, departments, and divisions at SDSU to adopt or create solidarity statements that support our APIDA campus members
- Encourage ongoing efforts to amplify and promote APIDA campus members

**Co-Authors: Virginia Loh-Hagan** (Director of the APIDA Resource Center and Chair of the APIDA Employee Resource Group), **Sandra Wawrtyko** (Director of the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies), **Nola Butler Byrd** (Vice Chair of the University Senate).

In addition, the following **Signers** support the passing of this resolution:

Abel Macias	Lecturer
Adisa A. Alkebulan	Chair & Associate Professor of Africana Studies
Agnes Wong Nickerson	Interim Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs and CFO
Alda Blanco	Emerita Professor
Alexa Lawrence	SDSU Student
Amanda Fuller	Director, Student Success Initiatives
Amanda Lee	SDSU School of Social Work, Director of Field Education
Amanda Simons	Lecturer
Amber Anaya	Lecturer
Amira Jarmakani	Professor of Womxn's Studies
Amy Wong	Lecturer
Anh Hua	Associate Professor
Anne Guanciale	Director, Pride Center
Annika Frieberg	Associate Professor
Antoinette Domingo	Associate Professor
Arlene Elane	Assistant Director
Atilio V. Alicio	Lecturer
Audrey Hokoda	Professor
Avneet Sidhu	Faculty
Ben Jenkins	Lecturer, Dept. of Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Beth Chung	Professor
Beth Sherman	Lecturer, Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Bonnie Reddick	Director, Black Resource Center
Brent Taylor	Department Chair
Brian Hu	Assistant Professor, Theatre, Television, and Film
Cali Linfor	Lecturer
Cara Yoo	EOP Counselor
Cecilia Benaglia	Assistant Professor
Changqi Liu	Associate Professor
Cheryl O'Brien	Associate Professor
Chris Medellin	Director- Native Resource Center
Chris Mi	Professor and Chair
Christine Molina	Director, Advising and Evaluations
Christy Quiogue	Campus Internship Coordinator

Chun-Ta Lai	Ecology Program Coordinator, Associate Professor of Biology
Clare Colquitt	Associate Professor of English
Clarissa Clò	Chair, Department of European Studies (European Studies, French, German, Italian, and Russian Programs)
Claudia Martinez	Experiential Learning Specialist, Career Services
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Edward Dial	Information Technology Consultant
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Esther Rothblum	Professor
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Gloria Rhodes	Outreach and Diversity Initiatives Librarian
Heidi Doyle	Admin Coordinator
Holly Ransom	Lecturer, French, European Studies
Ignatius Nip	Associate Professor School of Speech Language and Hearing Sciences
Irene Lara	Associate Professor of Women's Studies
Iris Isla	Chair of Bayanihan, Filipino American Faculty & Staff Association at San Diego State University
J. Luke Wood	Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer
Jacob Ambrose	Practicum therapist
Jacob Hubbard	RWS Lecturer

Jaemin Kim	Professor/FCB Director of Undergraduate Programs
Janice Chan	Lecturer
Janice Ilano Dils	Associated Students Government Affairs Manager
Jason Parker	Lecturer
Jennifer Imazeki	AVP for Faculty and Staff Diversity
Jerry Kropp	Clinical Psychologist
Jess Whatcott	Assistant Professor
Jessica Chang	Diversity Officer for Student Engagement
Jessica L. Nare	Assistant Vice President for Community and Belonging
John Abraham	Professor and Chair of Mechanical Engineering
John Putman	Professor, Department of History
Jong Won Min	Professor and Director of the School of Social Work
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Juanjuan Fan	Professor
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Jung Choi	Professor of Sociology
Kathryn Edgerton-Tarpley	Professor of History
Kaylani Cayabyab	President of SDSU Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers
Ke Huang	Associate Professor
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Koko Nishi, Psy.D	Clinical Psychologist
Lesi Mei	Lecturer
Lilly Cheng	Director, Chinese Cultural Center
Lori Stewart	Lecturer
Maddie Borkenhagen	Clinical Case Manager
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Minjeong Kim	Assistant Professor of Nursing
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Otto Lai	Lecturer
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Sarah Hoang	President of the Vietnamese Student Association, SDSU Student
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Tao Xie	Professor of Computer Science
Theresa Luu	Student Success Specialist
Timmy To	Part-time lecturer
Tina Chong	Lecturer
Todd Carson, Psy.D.	Counseling Faculty
Todd Myers	Lecturer
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Young-Shin Lee	Associate Professor
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