



ASIAN PACIFIC
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OF
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Professor Hanay Geiogamah, Interim Director of the American Indian Studies Center
Professor Don Nakanishi, Director of the Asian American Studies Center
Professor Chon Noriega, Director of the Chicano Studies Research Center
Professor Darnell Hunt, Director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies

Dear Professors Geiogamah, Nakanishi, Noriega, and Hunt:

I am very sorry I will not be able to join you for your town hall meeting on Tuesday, but I wanted to write and lend my fullest support for the Faculty Diversity Initiative which your faculty, staff, and students have written in consultation with alumni, community leaders, and elected officials. I believe there is not only a demographic imperative for this initiative, but also a number of compelling research, curricular, and public policy reasons as well. As the premier institution of higher education in Southern California, UCLA has an obligation to have the strongest possible faculty, who will do research on the region's major ethnic and racial communities, to teach and train UCLA undergraduate and graduate students to fully contribute to California's future diversity challenges and opportunities, and to build effective community partnerships.

As an alumnus of UCLA's undergraduate program and its School of Law, as well as one of the founders of the Asian American Studies Center, I was shocked and ashamed to learn that the 24 faculty positions that had been given to the four ethnic studies centers when they were founded had not been increased in over thirty years! These four centers have been at the forefront of developing the fields of African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, and Chicano Studies at the national and international levels, and have been the most important links between UCLA and ethnic and racial communities in Los Angeles. It is now time for UCLA to make a serious investment in its future excellence by designating at least 24 of its projected 200 new faculty positions to the four ethnic studies centers.

My apologies again for not being able to attend Tuesday's important gathering. Please keep me informed of the progress of this initiative. I will do whatever I can to assist you.

Sincerely yours,

Stewart Kwoh, Esq.
President and Executive Director
Asian Pacific Legal Center of Southern California