



DEPARTMENT of ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES | COLLEGE of HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Amir Dabirian
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Eric Estuar Reyes, Professor and Chair,
Department of Asian American Studies (ASAM)
Brian Chung, Assistant Professor
Thomas Fujita-Rony, Associate Professor
Tu-Uyen Nguyen, Associate Professor
Eliza Noh, Professor
Davorn Sisavath, Associate Professor
Jennifer A. Yee, Professor

CC: Jessica Stern, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Su Swarat, Senior Associate VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning

DATE: January 31, 2025

RE: 2023-24 Program Performance Review Culmination Meeting - ASAM Updates

We are pleased to meet with you and our Academic Affairs colleagues to culminate our 2023-24 Program Performance Review (PPR). Since submitting our self-review report in Fall 2023, our Department continues to enact our vision of a robust Asian American Studies department while adapting to constant change. During 2024-25, we have continued short-term department growth strategies (ASAM PPR, I.C., p. 10-11) that align with the 2024-29 Fullerton Forward Strategic Plan. Now that Area F Ethnic Studies carryover funds (held in provision from 2021-22 to 2024-25) have been released for department use, we will begin a process of fiscal planning that ensures sound stewardship of our Area F funds for long-term departmental growth and sustainability that align with the [CSU budget memo](#) (p. 5) on intended uses of AB 1460 funds.

Notably, in alignment with Fullerton Forward Goal 1 (*Enhance Support for Student Access, Learning, and Academic Success*), we participated in a department-wide curriculum retreat during Fall 2024 to reimagine our departmental student learning outcomes as the basis for designing curricular and co-curricular student experiences over ASAM's next decade. We will continue to prioritize pedagogical approaches and high-impact practices to support students' transformative learning. Full- and part-time faculty are taking professional development courses to enhance their teaching in face-to-face, hybrid, and fully online modalities. We have hired ASAM alumni as graduate assistants who mentor undergraduates and will host an alumni panel this Spring to highlight the ways that ASAM prepares students for graduate school, jobs, and careers. From 2016 to 2023, 14 students graduated with a bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies-Asian American Studies (ES-ASAM), and 74 completed the minor (PPR, 16). As noted in the PPR, "since 2011, ASAM has taught a significantly increased number of students regardless of major (PPR, 17)." Current admissions data indicate that the number of admitted ASAM majors increased by 220% from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025 (as reported by Dean Stern on 1/27). We are excited about the possibilities that our current efforts will yield.

Regarding Fullerton Forward Goal 2 (*Foster Student Engagement and Well-Being*), our faculty continue to collaborate with campus and community partners to foster students' growth and well-being. Our faculty have recently served on the Asian Pacific American Resource Center's (APARC) Coordinator Search Committee, have been elected to the Asian American & Pacific Islander Faculty Staff Association (AAPIFSA) board, and currently mentor the APARC coordinator through the AAPIFSA Leadership Program. ASAM students have participated with service-learning community partners in civic engagement activities such as voter registration efforts during Fall 2024, created social media campaigns to encourage voting and self-care, and shared access to community resources promoting mental, emotional, and physical health.

With regard to Goal 3 (*Recruit, Develop, and Retain High-Quality and Diverse Faculty and Staff*), we are thrilled to share that one of our faculty hired in 2021 was promoted early to Associate Professor in 2024 and has been selected to participate in the Provost's Faculty Fellows program. Equally significant is the news that our Administrative Services Coordinator has been admitted to the University of Southern California's master's program in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs. In another area of retention, one of our part-time faculty members is an instrumental member of a team that secured a Chancellor's Office grant to support AAPIFSA's 2024-25 mentorship program connecting faculty and staff. Several of our full- and part-time faculty are benefitting from rich and meaningful connections through this program.

Finally, regarding Goal 4 (*Expand and Strengthen Physical and Financial Capacity and Community Relations*), we are incredibly grateful for the annual state-funded Area F. Ethnic Studies allocation, which will give us the opportunity to build upon our relatively recent establishment as a Department in 2018. This year, we have tasked two of our senior faculty to lead our Space initiative and a Finance/Budget Committee to ensure that we approach our capital improvements and fiscal management responsibly and in alignment with our Department Mission, Vision, and Goals. We intend to work closely with our Dean's Office and campus colleagues to ensure that we build capacity to offer high-quality Area F. Ethnic Studies courses. In addition, we will continue to explore partnerships to secure external funds, such as grants from the Mellon Foundation and the CSU Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Grants Program.

We truly appreciate your and our campus's ongoing support and commitment to advance the dynamic evolution of our Department of Asian American Studies.