

**Proposal For
The Center
At the University of San Diego
(April 6, 1993)**

Mission Statement

The objective of the Center is to contribute to the creation of a campus environment which respects and supports diversity and pluralism. The mission of these five core organizations ('Aikane O Hawai'i, Asian Students Association, Black Student Union, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlan, and the Student Alliance Embracing Sexual Orientation) at the University of San Diego (USD) is to provide an environment conducive to the unique expression of these different micro-cultures that have historically experienced discrimination.

Rationale

The primary focus of the Center is to improve communication within and among culturally diverse groups in order to strengthen understanding and awareness, which is in accordance with the mission and goals stated by the Irvine Grant Steering Committee. Additionally, the Center will strive to maintain and promote each group's unique identities and needs.

The center will also serve as an educational resource for the University community and will aid the University in developing a campus community that is culturally diverse and responsive to changing local, regional and national demographics.

Goals

The Center has two phases of development based on short-term and long-term goals.

Short-Term Goals:

1. A space large enough to temporarily house five core organizations (Temporary is defined as a six-month period, after which the core organizations will reevaluate their needs). The space needs to be approximately 30x40 feet to accommodate the following specifications.
 - a) Each group will need partition spaces containing a desk, phone, bookshelf, file cabinet and bulletin board.
 - b) One partition space to allow groups/individuals who have successfully petitioned the governing board to organize and display

information. The space will be shared by all accepted petitioners until further space is available. The purpose of this space is to allow other historically discriminated against individuals to more easily communicate with other micro-culture members. It should include a bulletin board, table and chairs.

- c) A space large enough for group meetings, student lounging, events, organizational purposes, expression recruitment and retention and a place for the five organizations to conjointly plan eventual Center.
- d) This room will act as a prototype for the future Center.
 - 2. The Center will provide a more comfortable, less alienating setting for traditionally disenfranchised students who attend USD.
 - 3. The core organization will provide information for those interested in learning about the many micro-cultures represented at USD.
 - 4. The Center will assist all students in overcoming the stereotypes projected onto individuals of different backgrounds.
 - 5. The Center will be self-governed by one representative of each core organization that will act as the governing body. The governing body will serve as a liaison to the administration and University Community.
 - 6. The governing body will be responsible for reviewing any requests by other groups who want to occupy space in the Center.

Long-Term Goals:

- 1. A continuation of the short-term goals.
- 2. The Center will provide permanent space. (The Diocese may open up at which time the Center will lobby for vacant space).
 - a) Each core organization will have independent office space.
 - b) A space to accommodate large events such as conferences, lectures, educational events and a library.
 - c) It should provide private meeting spaces for each organization to meet simultaneously.
 - d) A conference room for the governing body of the center to hold meetings.

3. The Center will serve to attract more diverse students to USD, to increase the retention rate and to make the University more attractive overall for all University students, faculty and staff. It will also serve to increase the number of underrepresented students in higher education.
4. The Center will serve to educate and enlighten both ourselves and the entire University community regarding the reality of our world. The Center will open USD's eyes and mind to the rich cultural backgrounds at USD, in California and in the United States. It will work to break down cultural stereotypes and to contest the dominance of prejudice and "isms" on the USD campus.
5. The Center will encourage the establishment of academic educational programs that will serve the campus community such as African American Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicano Studies, Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Studies, Gender Studies and Urban Studies.

Purpose

The Center will meet the needs of the University community by institutionalizing diversity. The Center will serve as a major source bringing people together and linking the campus community in its quest for diversity and pluralism. These needs have been recognized by the University Community: faculty, staff, students and administration, as well as the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The mission of the University of San Diego as stated in its philosophy is based upon the respect of the individual. The Center would embrace and promote diversity of age, ability, economic status, ethnicity, gender, race, religion and sexual orientation. The members would support diversity by discouraging ignorance, insensitivity, intolerance, oppression and prejudice.