Guide to the Department of Ethnic Studies records

Gail Perez

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**Overview of the Collection**

**Title:** Department of Ethnic Studies records  
**Dates:** 1989-2011  
**Creator:** Perez, Gail  
**Quantity:** 1 box (1 linear foot)  
**Summary:** These records document the work done by faculty and students to establish an Ethnic Studies program at the University of San Diego.  
**Identification:** USDA_2018_002  
**Language:** English  
**Repository:** University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections  
Copley Library  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110  
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spcoll@sandiego.edu

**Historical Note**

As stated on the University of San Diego website in 2019, the mission of the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of San Diego "is to build and sustain an interdisciplinary, integrated and academically rigorous program and curriculum that examines the intersections of race, class, gender and sexuality. It addresses our shared North American historical legacy of contact, conquest and resistance that has shaped the culture, politics and economics of the United States. The Ethnic Studies Major is guided by the idea of students validating their lives..."
and theorizing their histories with creative and community-focused methodologies that can be directly applied in the local community and region.”

Efforts by faculty and students to establish an Ethnic Studies program at USD were largely sparked by a series of factors that occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation reports showed a lack of diversity at USD that required change, a committee was established in 1988 to analyze diversity on campus, the 1990 Strategic Plan aimed to increase diversity, and an Irvine Foundation Grant was awarded in 1991 to address the lack of diversity among the University of San Diego’s faculty and student population. Among the projects pursued with the grant funding were assessment, administration and staff development, community service programming, faculty and curriculum development, science education, and student affairs programming. While not funded by the grant, in 1993, the United Front Multicultural center opened after a student coalition advocated for a safe space for students of color and other marginalized groups. Faculty and students also saw the need for an Ethnic Studies program.

Faculty members Eugene Labovitz in Sociology and Gail Perez in English were key organizers in the push for an Ethnic Studies minor. Students and faculty began researching the Ethnic Studies programs at peer institutions, and began proposals for the Ethnic Studies minor in 1995. The minor was established in 1998, and the first course, Introduction to Ethnic Studies, was offered in 1999. While a minor existed, it was not operating with a designated budget. In 2000, students began pushing for an Ethnic Studies major, a Director for the Ethnic Studies program, and a Diversity (D) course required for all students. In November of 2000, students held a Walk for Consciousness to bring attention to issues of diversity, hate crimes at USD, and to push for the Ethnic Studies major.

The Ethnic Studies major was added in 2002 and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences approved the hire of a director of Ethnic Studies. In 2003, Alberto Pulido became the first full time hire in Ethnic Studies.

**Scope and Content Note**

These records document the movement by students and faculty members, primarily Gail Perez and Eugene Labovitz, to establish an Ethnic Studies program at the University of San Diego. Records include departmental history and reflections written by Dr. Perez, Dr. Labovitz, and students. Information on the Irvine Foundation Grant that was awarded to USD is included. Records also include information gathered about Ethnic Studies programs at other universities, and information about establishment of the United Front Multicultural Center. Video footage, news coverage, and photographs of the November 30, 2000 Walk for Consciousness rally are also included.
Arrangement

The Department of Ethnic Studies records are organized into two series:

Series I. Historical Information

Series II. Videos

Records in this collection remain in original order.

Restrictions

The majority of this collection is closed to departmental use only. Please contact University Archives about accessing this collection.

Related Material

Additional information on the Irvine Grant can be found in the James Irvine Foundation Grant records.

VHS video has been transferred to .MOV and DVD. DVD has been transferred to .ISO and .MOV. DVDs are located in DVD storage.

Index Terms

Labovitz, Eugene
Perez, Gail
United Front Multicultural Center
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
(San Diego, Calif.)
academic departments
demonstrations
faculty
racial discrimination
students' attitudes
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Department of Ethnic Studies records, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Ashley Toutain in 2019.

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Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Historical Information, 1989-2011

Box Folder

1 1 Key Histories of Ethnic Studies at USD, circa 2001-2008

   [Includes emails and essays covering the history of the student movement toward establishing the Ethnic Studies program and the Multicultural Center as well as perspectives about each.]


   [Includes a 1996 Ethnic Diversity Report from the Office of Institutional Research, a 2000 Plan for Diversity and Inclusion, and a history of the Multicultural Center and the Ethnic Studies minor and major.]

3 Artifacts, 1994-2011

   [Includes the transcript of a presentation given at the 1994 Pacific Sociological Association conference, the 1990 constitution for the Black Student Union, materials on the Native American Student organization, and information gathered from area colleges regarding Ethnic Studies programs.]

4 Irvine II Cultural Competency, 1995-2011

   [Includes 1995 Ethnic Diversity Report, proposals for the Irvine Grant, and a Diversity Curriculum proposal.]


   [Includes mission statement and draft proposal for Ethnic Studies as well as Task Force information.]

6 Diversity USD, 1994-2002

7 Hate Crimes USD, 1996-2007
[Includes policy proposals, notices, and information on campus hate crimes.]

8 Proposal for the Major in Ethnic Studies submitted by the Ethnic Studies Task Force, 2002 September 10

9 Ethnic Studies History Otis Scott Report, 1997-2002

10 Ethnic Studies Mission, circa 2002

11 Labovitz Irvine I, 1991-1993
   [Includes observations about diversity at USD, information gathered from a values survey, memoranda regarding the Irvine grant, and Irvine grant reporting information.]

12 Ethnic Studies Minor Proposal, 1997

13 University of San Francisco Struggle for Ethnic Studies, 1990s


16 Struggle for Ethnic Studies Major - Chacon Report, 2000-2002
   [Report conducted by Ramon Chacon associate professor of history and ethnic studies at Santa Clara University.]

   [Includes United Front event information, newsletter, assessment information, and documents on restructuring the Center.]

18 [MEChA Flier], undated

19 Ethnic Studies Meetings United Front Documents, 1993-1999

20 Rejected Proposal for United Front, 1996

21 The "D" Requirement, 2004-2005

22 DDay and Brochures, 1996, 2007-2008
   [Includes flier, Wake Up! Events for fall 2007, University of Diversity Reflections and Next Steps Report for April 2008.]

23 [Ethnic Studies Minor Courses], 1998, 2000

24 Ethnic Studies Brochure, 2009

Series II: Videos, 2000

Ethnic Studies Events; News stories on Ethnic Studies Rally; Salsa Revolution, 2000

Video transferred from VHS to DVD and .MOV.

Walk 4 Consciousness, 2000 November 30

[Video footage and photographs of rally held at the University of San Diego.]

Video and photographs on DVD and transferred to .ISO and .MOV.