

VIA EMAIL

San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education  
San Diego, California

June 14, 2023

Dr. Adela de la Torre  
President  
San Diego State University

Dear President de la Torre:

We hope this correspondence finds you well. We write to express our concern regarding the pending appointment of two important administrators at San Diego State University, the positions of Provost and Vice President of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity, respectively. Our San Diego Concilio has enjoyed a positive working relationship with Provost Hector Ochoa and Vice President Luke Wood, and we hope to continue our collaborations with such leadership going forward. We believe that Provost Ochoa and VP Wood have advanced both the Mission Valley and Imperial Valley campuses toward the actualization of Hispanic Serving Institution status for SDSU.

We know that you will be closely involved in the processes to choose the candidates to fill these positions. Our SD Concilio expresses our hope and recommendation that the new leadership, along with your office, will embrace the important priorities we support at SDSU:

- Hiring, promotion, and retention of Chicano/Latino faculty.
- Institutional support for Chicana & Chicano Studies and funds to expand ethnic studies.
- Continued development and support of the Department of Dual Language Education to expand its services in biliteracy teacher education and a dedicated doctoral degree in global multilingual education.
- Funding for the Latinx Resource Center and the Undocumented Resource Center.
- Continued development of the Office of HSI Affairs, including its HSI Advisory Committee.
- Support for the Compact for Success.
- Implementation of undergraduate admissions criteria without standardized tests.
- Thorough assessment of both “academic” and “liberatory” student outcomes in Academic Affairs as well as Student Affairs and Campus Diversity.
- Collaboration to establish a dedicated SDSU binational, interdisciplinary college in fronterizo studies in the South Bay border region.
- Collaboration to establish a four-year university in San Diego’s South Bay.

These critical priorities will move SDSU toward greater institutional transformation and authentic “servingness” (Gina Garcia, 2023) for Chicanos/Latinos. As always, our San Diego Concilio is willing to meet with you and to assist in the implementation of these policies and practices.

Sinceramente,

Patrick Velasquez, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair  
San Diego Concilio

Isidro Ortiz, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair  
San Diego Concilio