

October 30, 2018

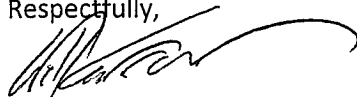
To fellow Senators and our campus community,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to you about my feelings connected with our meeting on October, 24 2018. I am unsure where to begin, but since I have to begin somewhere, I will express my dismay that we held such an important meeting in the Ferman Presentation room. As all of us have witnessed since last year, these issues around EO 1100 and 1110 warrant many views and opinions on how they will impact our campus that need to be expressed and validated. By using the Ferman Presentation room, we effectively limited the counter-narratives of those most impacted to 13 possible narratives. To say that this is a gross injustice is an understatement. Those whose very personhood is being discussed by people who share the same skin tone as me, white, is incredibly invalidating to students of color, faculty of color, as well as administrators and staff that are people of color as well. Everybody on this campus knows that these EOs will have a disproportionate negative impact on people of color. Yet we are stopping them from entering into the discussion and this invalidates their communities' knowledge, history, and, in short, their very existence at CSUN. I suppose that this is why there were two entrances, one for senators, and one for "guests" as if those human beings are not part of our community and instead are only there because we allow and invite them. I guess we only value those people when they bring us recognition i.e. HSI.

To further dehumanize them, we criminalized the entire process. I have never witnessed that kind of police presence at a faculty senate meeting before. This is an overt intimidation tactic to squash dissent voices from being heard and, hence, is just another way to uphold whiteness in our ivory tower. For a moment, I ask you to try and see these actions of dehumanization and criminalization through the eyes of those who are experiencing these actions every day all day. How do you think you'd handle it? For starters, you wouldn't be, to use your word, "civil". Already, without experiencing this other lived reality, you demand "civility" on your terms, you demand us to be "grown ups" and when you aren't 100% in control, you speak without understanding what you are even speaking about. To highlight this, one senator accused me of organizing dissent among the students when I was actually explaining proper protocol for our meeting. This senator displayed overt acts of both audism and linguicism. To further expand on how this senator displays his disgust with us, he sarcastically said to the entire senate, "maybe our two *friends* [italics mine] (referring to both myself and Gina) want to say something?" These are two out of many instances of your brand of civility that just show the various ways you behave when your believed authority is questioned. If this is "civil" in the light of just presenting opposing views, our students and faculty that are in the line of fire from these EOs are walking, talking, and behaving the way we could only hope to behave, and that is with dignity and respect.

I do want to make sure one thing is clear before you label me and try to say I am only doing this because I am in ethnic studies (which is a classic dismissal tactic of opposing views, i.e. "playing the race card"), I am not in ethnic studies and nor does my department have any GE classes in any section. I believe this is our moral duty to stand in solidarity with those who have been marginalized and continue to be forced out from academia. By not working in solidarity to stop the implementation of these options is act of violence that upholds the matrix of dominance that our very country was built on. I implore you to not let this be our legacy to CSUN. Rather, our legacy should be the one to confront and dismantle the entire matrix of dominance.

Respectfully,



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