CHICANO STUDIES PROGRAMS
University of Wisconsin-Madison

R E P O R T

TO: Chicano Affairs Committee

FROM: Walter Lane, Interim Coordinator

RE: Activities during the period 1/13/81 to 2/6/81

Precis: In the period following the last regular meeting of the Chicano Affairs Committee, a delegation of the Committee met with Vice-Chancellor Bryant Kearl and Deans Palmer and Cronon. As a result of this meeting, several issues were clarified and actions initiated pertaining to administrative location for programs, budget for 1981-82, the Coordinator position, and permanent housing. Staff subsequently proceeded along agreed lines of development, elaborating a position announcement/application review process; a set of policy considerations for course development and Visiting Professorship(s); and continuing the writing of a draft comprehensive planning document for Chicano Studies Programs. The 'Cine de la Raza' film series was initiated with some encouraging results. A set of Recommendations from the Coordinator are attached for consideration by the Committee.

1. Results of the meeting with Vice Chancellor Kearl and Deans Palmer and Cronon. (January 15, 1981)

This meeting reviewed developmental concerns raised in a letter from the Committee dated December 23, 1980. It was felt that uncertainties about funding allocations and resources available to Chicano Studies should be removed before proceeding with program development.

Chicano Studies Programs will continue under the administrative responsibility of the School of Education. However, with the selection of a Coordinator, a strong liaison and cooperative relation is expected to be developed with the College of Letters and Sciences.

The December letter contained a budget request totaling $64,800. That amount included salaries for the program coordinator, a half-time secretarial position, a program development assistant, and a visiting professorship. Additional budget items included supplies, equipment and materials and a "program generating" fund for travel to negotiate grants, and honorariums for a number of visiting lecturers.

The budget requests for a coordinator and a secretary's salary were approved, as well as the amount requested for supplies, equipment and materials. The Vice Chancellor and the Deans recommended that specific proposals be developed and guided through other funding channels. The

Visiting Professorship, for example, would be proposed to an appropriate department or to the NAVE/Tinker Fund for support. The "program generating" expenses would be requested on a case-by-case basis from the School of Education or another source. Proposals for visiting lecturers would be directed to the Anonymous Fund or the University Lectures Committee. Vice Chancellor Kearl and the Deans offered their support for worthwhile proposals consistent with the objectives defined by Chicano Studies Programs.

The direct budget level approved for 1981-82 is approximately $36,000.

The Vice Chancellor and the Deans agreed that the Coordinator's position should be administrative in nature and permanent. They recommended that the announcement state that it is a fixed-term, renewable appointment.

The Vice Chancellor and the Deans gave assurances that the physical housing for Chicano Studies Programs would be expedited in the University space allocations process.

2. Subsequent Staff Activities.

The Job Description for the Coordinator's position was drafted and reviewed by a subcommittee of the Chicano Affairs Committee. The final draft of the description was reviewed and approved by the Dean of the School of Education and the Vice Chancellor for Administration. The completed position announcement was sent to approximately 200 dissemination points around the country, including Chicano and Ethnic Studies programs, and Chicano Studies research newsletters published at the University of Michigan, Stanford University, and UCLA.

A draft of the review and evaluation process for incoming applications has been submitted to the Search Subcommittee of Chicano Affairs for study and recommendation.

After a series of consultations with interested parties, Chicano Studies staff has developed a set of considerations which could be used to define policy guidance for the Visiting Professor Program.

a. A Visiting Professor program for any particular academic year should be designed in such a manner as to benefit the largest possible number of Chicano students on campus.
b. The courses offered by a Visiting Professor should be coordinated with the goals of course progression and cohesiveness of offerings under Chicano Studies Programs.
c. The process of developing courses for Chicano Studies Programs should be guided by a clearly defined logic in the sequence and focus of the offerings. For example, an introductory course in Chicano History may be more appropriate than a course in Contemporary Chicano Political Organizations if the level of familiarity of prospective students in the field warrants it.

A process of research and consultation is continuing in support of the preparation of a comprehensive draft planning document for Chicano Studies Programs. This document can be useful in guiding long-range

development of the programs as well as deriving individual funding proposals. The draft should be prepared in time for the next meeting of the Chicano Affairs Committee.

3. 'El Cine de la Raza'

Chicano Studies Programs, with support from the UW-System American Ethnic Studies Coordinating Committee (AESCC), MEChA, and the Multi-Cultural Council, sponsored the first presentation of the 'Cine de la Raza' film series. Approximately 300 persons attended two showings of a feature-length and a documentary film at the Play Circle Theater. Respondents to an Audience Survey indicated a high level of satisfaction with the quality of the films and their contribution to cultural awareness. Also, the Bureau of Audio Visual Instruction reviewed the documentary film and agreed to acquire it for inclusion in their catalog of films.

4. Recommendations.

There are a series of measures which would serve to increase the effectiveness of the Chicano Affairs Committee. The proposals derive from the understanding that the Chicano Affairs Committee is a officially constituted body organized to provide policy guidance and an advise/consent function.

First, the establishment of an ongoing reporting system will furnish a context of the outcome and conduct of policies and programs. The Coordinator's Report of Activities would be the primary instrument for accomplishing this system.

Second, at least three alternatives regarding the Chair for the Committee should be considered in terms of short and long-range needs; these alternatives, in order of preference, include the election of a fixed-term chair, the extension of the term of the termporary chair to a date after the selection of the Coordinator, and instituting a system of alternates to preside over the meetings of the Committee.

Third, some steps should be taken to formalize the operations of the Committee. These include taking minutes of regular meetings, limiting discussion to issues of policy and advise/consent, and instituting the subcommittee system to develop specific plans and programs with the assistance of Staff. A Search Committee has already been named to oversee the process of identifying candidates for the Coordinator position; other committees which would seem appropriate would be a Housing Committee to expedite the Space Allocation procedure, and a Curriculum and Instruction Committee which would develop plans and programs relating to course offerings, Visiting Professorships and Visiting Lecturers. The subcommittee system could be defined to include resource persons from outside the Chicano Affairs Committee where appropriate.

Fourth, some structural considerations include a policy statement by the Committee regarding the replacement of members and the setting of a fixed meeting sequence. (A regular meeting is first Thursday of each

month, for example.)

Finally, the suggestions outlined in item 2 a., b., and c. of this report could be adopted as policy to guide the deliberations of a Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee.

WL/mb
2/6/81