Finding Aid for the Hunger Strike for Chicano Studies Department Collection, 1993-1994

Chicano Studies Research Center Library

May 2018
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URL: http://chicano.ucla.edu
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Chicano Studies Research Center Library
Title: Hunger Strike for Chicano Studies Department Collection
Creator: Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) 1993
Identifier/Call Number: 1
Physical Description: 1.2 linear ft.(3 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1993-1994
Abstract: This collection consists of flyers, memos, notes, form letters, faxes and photographs that document the events that occurred during the spring of 1993 when several students and one professor began a hunger strike to protest the decision of Chancellor Charles E. Young to close the Chicano Studies Program at the University of California, Los Angeles.
Language of Material: Collection materials are in English and Spanish.
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Library and Archive for paging information.
Access
Open for research.
Acquisition Information
Donated to the Chicano Studies Research Center by Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) in 2002.
Arrangement
The files are in the order determined by the previous archivists.
Biography
In 1993, after several attempts by faculty and students at the University of California, Los Angeles to change the standing of the Chicano Studies Program from an interdisciplinary program to a department, Chancellor Charles E. Young announced that the Program would not receive departmental status. The date was April 28th, 1993, the eve of Cesar Chavez's funeral. This decision ignited the passion and activism of many students and set in motion a sit-in demonstration by the Conscious Students of Color group over the welfare of the Chicano Studies Library, budget cuts, and the Chicana/o Studies Program and other Ethnic Programs at UCLA. Around 200 hundred students walked across the Westwood campus to the Faculty Center to protest the Chancellor's decision. The protest turned violent after Los Angeles Police Department and University of California Police Department officers appeared in riot gear at the Faculty Center. As a result, 99 students were arrested and UCLA pressed charges against the students for vandalizing the premises.

These actions set off rallies and demonstrations on the part of a variety of student groups such as MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan), Latin American Student Alliance (LASA), and Students for Revolutionary Action, as well as community groups such as the United Community Labor Alliance, bringing together thousands of people to demand changes at UCLA.

The most dramatic demonstration, and the focus of this archival collection, was the 1993 hunger strike. Several students and one UCLA professor decided to protest what they considered an injustice on the part of the UCLA administration, represented by Chancellor Charles E. Young, through a fast to emphasize their demands. The hunger strikers were: Juan Arturo Diaz Lopez, Marcos Aguilar, Balvina Collazo, Maria M. Lara, Arturo Paztel Mireles Resendi, Cindi Montanez, Joaquin Manual Ochoa and Professor Jorge R. Mancillas.

The hunger strike attracted the support and attention of many recognized members of the community including State Senators Tom Hayden and Art Torres, State Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard and Xavier Becerra, City Assemblywoman Hilda L. Solis, Mothers of East L.A. and many others. This event galvanized the community at large and resulted in one of the largest student and community mobilizations in the history of UCLA.

At the end of the hunger strike a compromise was achieved between the hunger strikers and the UCLA administration. As a result, the Cesar Chavez Center for Interdisciplinary Instruction in Chicana and Chicano Studies was created.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Hunger Strike for Chicano Studies Department Collection, 1, UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, University of California, Los Angeles.
Scope and Content
This collection includes flyers, memos, notes, form letters, faxes, photographs and documents of the events that occurred during the spring of 1993, when several students and one professor went on a hunger strike to protest the decision of Chancellor Charles E. Young to close the Chicano Studies Program at the University of California, Los Angeles.
**Publication Rights**

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**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Hunger strikes  
University of California, Los Angeles. Cesar E. Chavez Center for Interdisciplinary Instruction in Chicana and Chicano Studies  
Student movements  
Young, Charles E. (Charles Edward), 1931-

| Box 1, Folder 1 | **Faxes inviting support for the hunger strike 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Fax cover letters sent to politicians in California by students involved in organizing the hunger strike. |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | **Signatures of support 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
74 pages of original signatures from faculty and students from Benjamin Franklin High School, Highland Park, to Chancellor Charles Young. |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | **Leaflets 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Leaflets and flyers to promote rallies in support of the hunger striker's demands. |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | **News releases 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Most written by Claudia Granados reporting the status of the hunger strike and the creation of the Cesar Chavez Center for Interdisciplinary Instruction in Chicana and Chicano Studies. |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | **Media package 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Packages of materials put together to promote the hunger strike including letters of support from Tom Hayden, Pete Wilson, Bill Clinton and the UC Regents, school principals et al. |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | **Media contact list 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Lists of media outlets. |
| Box 1, Folders 7-14 | **Form letters 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Signed letters supporting the hunger strike. |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | **Community public relations packages 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Flyers, photocopies, clippings in support of the hunger strikers. |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | **Cesar Chavez Center creation 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Correspondence related to the formation of the Cesar Chavez Center for Interdisciplinary Instruction in Chicano and Chicana Studies. |
Box 2, Folders 1-5  
**Form letters 1993**

**Fax cover letter requesting letters and calls of support 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Cover letters and samples of cover letters.

Box 2, Folder 6  
**Lists of volunteers and rally notes 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Sign-up sheets and faxes rallying support for the hunger striker's demands.

Box 2, Folder 7  
**Cesar Chavez Center materials 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence and materials related to the formation of the Cesar Chavez Center.

Box 2, Folder 8  
**Letters of support 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence from the Nation of Islam, Jesse Jackson, Guillermo Gomez-Pena, et al. in support of the hunger strike.

Box 2, Folder 9  
**Rally organization notes 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence, faxes, memos, etc. informing people of upcoming rallies and asking for support and assistance.

Box 2, Folder 10  
**Media sign-in sheet 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Lists of media reporters coming to the May 21 Rally.

Box 2, Folder 11  
**Empty folder**

Box 2, Folder 12  
**Solidarity march route 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Memos to the LAPD Special Event Unit in preparation for the June 2 march.

Box 2, Folder 13  
**Legislative support letters 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Original faxes and photocopies of faxes from legislators requesting support for the hunger striker's demands.

Box 2, Folder 14  
**Faxes of support 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Faxes in support of the hunger strikers from Jesse Jackson, Tom Hayden, and Martha Escutia.

Box 2, Folder 15  
**Loyola March to UCLA - photographs 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Seven photos of the march from Loyola to UCLA.

Box 2, Folder 16  
**Form Letters of Support 1993**

**Scope and Contents**

Signed memo style form letters addressed to Chancellor Young.
| Box 3, Folders 1-9 | **Form Letters of Support 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Signed form letters addressed to Chancellor Young outlining the signer's support for the hunger strikers and the formation of a Chicana / Chicano studies department. |
| Box 3, Folder 10 | **Rally flyers and handbills 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Flyers and handbills from different student and community organizations showing support for the hunger strikers. |
| Box 3, Folder 11 | **Cesar Chavez Center proposal papers 1993**  
Scope and Contents  
Two packages of photocopied papers outlining the logistics of creating the Cesar Chavez Center. |
| Box 3, Folder 12 | **Newspaper clippings 1993-1994** |