



UCLA Forum to Reclaim Diversity

Organized by the Coalition Against Structural Inequality (CAS I),
Raza Graduate Student Association (RGSA),
Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Caucus,
Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship (GUM) Program, and more



About the Lead Organizers

Coalition Against Structural Inequality (CAS I)

CAS I is a group of students, staff, and faculty who were funded by the UCLA Research Initiative for Diversity and Equity (RIDE) grant to offer the Forum to Reclaim Diversity. CAS I invited vital entities at UCLA to be part of the planning, organizing, and implementing of this event. A few of these groups are listed below. For more information, contact:

Kareem Elzein at casiconference2015@gmail.com

Raza Graduate Student Association (Raza GSA)¹

The purpose of Raza* GSA at the University of California, Los Angeles is to meet the social, cultural, political, and academic needs of Raza graduate students on campus. For more information, contact:

Nora Cisneros Mendoza at RazaGradDeUCLA@gmail.com

*Raza defined as: people who identify with the Chicana/o Latina/o Indigenous cultural heritage or experience.

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Caucus¹

The purpose of the caucus is to bring the UCLA community together to discuss campus climate issues. The GSO Caucus serves as an “umbrella” organization for various student groups* that aim to coordinate and support campus wide efforts of collective action and resistance against institutional marginalization and discrimination at the University of California, Los Angeles. For more information, contact:

Manpreet Dhillon at gsocaucus@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu

*A few members in the GSO Caucus include: the Raza Graduate Student Association (Raza GSA), Black GSA, Women's GSA, and GSA in Education.

Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship (GUM) Program¹

As part of the *UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative*, GUM is a pilot program that launched spring 2014. GUM offers a six-week-long workshop series for undergraduate students who wish to learn more about graduate school in one of the following public service fields: education, public policy, social welfare, and urban planning. Undergraduate students are also matched with a graduate/professional school student based on academic field of interest. For more information, contact:

Janet Rocha at gsrcmentorship@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu

1. Registered student organization at UCLA

The Forum and the Healthy Campus Initiative

This project aligns well with HCI's efforts to: 1) promote mind-brain health or psychological well-being and creative achievement as well as 2) create a healthy community and environment. This collective project, with the theme of “Forum to Reclaim Diversity,” strives to develop a healthier campus by creating an event that will encourage undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni to engage in dialogue around campus climate issues. Keynote speaker, Dr. Daniel Solórzano, will help meet the forum's goal to increase awareness around issues that pertain to fostering a healthy campus climate such as racial and/or gender microaggressions, racial battle fatigue, and campus racial climate. Most importantly, the forum will work towards nurturing an integrative approach of healing by treating mind, body, and spirit holistically. Our approach in this forum respects diversity by acknowledging that health and wellness are concepts directly associated to race, social class, sexuality, and gender.

The UCLA Forum to Reclaim Diversity

The Forum to Reclaim Diversity aims to develop collective understanding of UCLA diversity issues across campus and community lines. At the forum, students, staff, and faculty will collaborate to develop strategic initiatives for challenging and changing campus climate. Goals of the forum include:

- Develop and deepen understandings of what diversity work needs to accomplish on the UCLA campus.
- Identify the resources that are necessary to advance towards achieving diversity.
- Create an action plan for our next steps as communities to move forward.

Forum Agenda

Thursday, April 23, 2015, 3:00pm-8:30pm, Pauley Pavilion

3:00pm - 3:30pm - RESPECT

Opening remarks by **Dr. Daniel Solórzano**, Associate Dean for Equity and Diversity at the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. The event will begin by introducing the forum goals, welcoming participants, and establishing community agreements.

3:30pm - 4:30pm - RECOGNIZE

An **intergroup dialogue** between students, staff/workers, faculty, alumni, and community members on campus diversity issues will be lead by trained volunteers from Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Caucus and other Bruins trained in Intergroup Dialogue Facilitation.

4:30pm - 4:45pm - REFRESH

Coffee, tea, juice, water, treats, and other fun snacks to help you get your break on.

4:45pm - 7:30pm - RESPONSE

Two rounds of focused breakout sessions aimed to develop strategies for addressing pressing issues of campus diversity. Overview of the breakout topics can be seen on the right panel.

7:30pm - 8:30pm - Replenish

Dinner, mingle, and turn up

Action-Oriented Breakout Sessions

Breakout Round 1 4:45pm-6pm

Session Title	Description	Expected audience
Student Retention	Proposed meeting of different retention programs to identify collective needs and develop collective strategy to achieve these goals.	Retention programs, students, staff
Crisis Counseling Program	Conversations around developing anonymous crisis counseling services for students and staff from marginalized communities to see social workers/counselors trained in Critical Race pedagogies.	Students, faculty
Improving the Student Bias Response System	The current bias response system does not provide appropriate or effective resources and support for marginalized students to cope with campus stressors related to oppression. In this breakout we will discuss means of improving the bias reporting system, so as to hold the university accountable in responding and supporting oppressed student groups.	Students, staff, faculty
Multi-Journal Symposium: Affirming Activist Scholarship	The session will open with a moderated panel where participating journals will share experiences of previous activist scholarship published and the impact of this scholarship. Campus activists will be invited to participate in a workshop to begin translating their work into scholarship. Campus journals will publish a multi-journal special issue in the Fall including the work of campus activist scholars.	Students
Faculty Hiring and Mentorship	Aims to review existing and produce new strategies and tactics to facilitate better faculty hiring and mentorship practices. By bringing together interested groups and faculty on campus, we will devise new and/or improved approaches to holding departments and the university accountable for changing hiring policies and incentivizing student mentorship.	Faculty, students
Building Community Among Staff	This workshop seeks to foster campus-wide awareness and goals among staff on the types of changes they would like to see to enhance campus climate and next steps.	Staff, faculty
Workers Rights and Diversity	A moderated roundtable discussion with campus union leaders connecting workers rights campaigns to campus diversity conversations.	Staff, faculty, students

Breakout Round 2 6:15pm-7:30pm

Session Title	Description	Expected Audience
Summer Institute	Creating a summer program for activist students, staff, faculty to meet one another, share experiences and skills, and plan campaigns for the upcoming year.	Students, staff, faculty
Diversity Accountability Group	Planning the formation of connected working groups composed of staff, faculty, students, and alumni developing/furthering strategies to address ongoing diversity issues on campus.	Students, staff, faculty
Letter to the VC	A community letter to the new VCED, the Chancellor, and the Executive Vice Chancellor sharing with the VCED a list of community priorities to focus his institutional authority to effect change.	Students, staff, faculty

After the Forum

The lead organizers will continue to work with the Diversity Accountability Group and put into action the initiatives developed at the breakout session. We plan to meet two more times before the end of the academic year to develop short-term and long-term action plans to follow (tentative meeting dates include Thursdays, May 14th and June 4th).

RGSA's Critical Dialogue

As part of the *UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative* in 2013, RGSA organized the event “A Critical Dialogue on Campus Racial Climate and Student Wellness” at UCLA. The event was well-received, and attended by over 150 undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. We designed an assessment tool to evaluate the event and found that 96% of attendees looked forward to a follow up event. (N = 78).

Acknowledgements

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