

A POSITION PAPER ON THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE OF JAPANESE
AMERICAN STUDIES AND THE SCHOOL OF ETHNIC AREA STUDIES

* * * * * ASIAN AMERICAN POLITICAL ALLIANCE

A Japanese American Studies department as a part of the School of Ethnic Area Studies offers Japanese American and other concerned students a real opportunity to study in depth the role of the Japanese in the historical development of the United States. The role of the Asian American in the development of the Far West is one example of a neglected field insofar as the cultural and social influences of particularly the Japanese in contributing to the heterogeneous environment that exists in the western United States today.

Recognizing some of the purposes of education as the dispelling of ignorance, creating individual and group awareness of the environment in which we live, the ASIAN AMERICAN POLITICAL ALLIANCE, as one of the six groups currently working towards a School of Ethnic Area Studies affirms the urgency and necessity of such a program.

At this time, the Japanese American Studies program is not equipped to provide a major interest or vocational training in the area of Ethnic Studies. As a future projection, it is to be hoped that a student may eventually obtain a B.A. and an M.A. degree with a concentration in one of the departments within the (now proposed) School of Ethnic Area Studies. We can only see this goal with the support of the college and of the community. The need, indeed, the urgency now exists. It remains to be seen whether the college responds to these needs.

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