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Dean's Response to Latina/Latino Studies Seventh Cycle Program Review

Latina/Latino Studies has done a tremendous job increasing the number of their majors, retaining and graduating their students within six years, and providing Latinx students across the university with empowering life changing experiences through their GE courses and off-campus activities. They have overcome a number of challenges from their previous review such as growing FTES in the face of decreasing number of tenure/tenure track faculty particularly since 2014, shouldering an increasing SFR from 27 to 31 while the university SFR average hovers at 23, and maintaining a retention and graduation rate often 20 or more percentage points above the university average for its majors and minors. Surveys reveal the overwhelming number of students, between 80% and 90%, feel satisfied or very satisfied with the breadth and depth of material covered, level of intellectual engagement, as well as faculty commitment to student success. The qualitative comments stand out as the most moving, citing LTNS courses as keeping students "motivated" due to "encouraging" and "supportive" faculty. One student cited the department as "crucial" in their success at SFSU and another noted "I wouldn't know where I would be if I never found the Latina/o Studies department." 88% of respondents also noted that the department validates them as Latina/o students and provides unique curriculum not available in other parts of the university. I concur with the conclusions of both the self-study and external reviewers that LTNS would best be served with additional faculty lines as well as a full time administrative assistant to better serve their growing FTES. I additionally urge the department to consider suggestions from external reviewers regarding low or no-cost endeavors that would enrich the curriculum as well. I commend the department's thorough self-study in its extraordinary detail and honesty.

Amy Sueyoshi
Interim Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies