

SUCCESSFUL PIPELINE PROGRAMS AND PROPOSALS FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION IN AUSTERE TIMES

César “El Ché” Rodríguez
Department of Sociology
University of California, Santa Barbara
cesarrodriguez@umail.ucsb.edu

Pipeline Programs

- ▣ McNair Scholars Program – UC Berkeley
- ▣ UC DIGSSS – UCSB
 - Structure
 - ▣ Invested staff member on the ground; working with graduate students, faculty, and administrators
 - ▣ Anchored by the institutional power of a very invested and motivated dean
 - ▣ Provides subjective and objective resources
 - Objective Resources
 - Summer funding to support research and professional development
 - Travel funds for research and conferences
 - Travel funds for research equipment and services
 - Subjective Resources
 - Training on finding the right mentor and committee
 - Publishing opportunities
 - Different career trajectories
 - Acquiring funding, etc.

Graduate Student Grassroots Advocacy

- ▣ Graduate student activism
 - Impacts at the graduate student level
 - ▣ Culture of advocacy
 - ▣ Culture of support
 - Impacts at the administrative level
 - ▣ Prioritized diversity

Expensive Proposals for Recruiting and Retaining Graduate Students of Color

- ▣ More faculty of color
- ▣ A diversity of funding sources
- ▣ Maintain and expand programs like DIGSSS
 - More staff
 - Secure established funding
 - Expand program

Balancing Acts

- ▣ Provide resources to graduate students of color without becoming complicit with neoliberal multiculturalism
- ▣ Rely on faculty and students of color without detracting them from their scholarship
- ▣ Provide institutional resources and spaces for graduate students of color, without necessarily making their development strictly about professionalization

Austere Proposals for Austere Times

- ❑ Provide formal recognition for the advocacy work of students and faculty
- ❑ Pair incoming graduate students with advanced graduate students
- ❑ Commission an online “wiki”, authored and maintained by graduate students, that is a living body of knowledge
- ❑ Fellowships for one academic term of support for students that are not meeting normative time requirements
- ❑ Shift away from “lonely scholar” approach to research, to a “shop” style approach
- ❑ Encourage and formally recognize horizontally-organized spaces and programs
- ❑ Expand writing courses that train students to publish material
- ❑ Review not only program requirements, but strategies to meet requirements
- ❑ Career trajectory workshops
- ❑ TA/GSI Training