

College Council Resolution on the Establishment of Cultural Centers for Minority Students

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WHEREAS President Robert J. Zimmer's statement on diversity & inclusion speaks to how "A commitment to diversity is central to our mission of discovery", and;

WHEREAS University of Chicago United, a minority RSO coalition composed of representatives from the African Caribbean Student Association (ACSA), El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A), the Organization of Black Students (OBS), the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), PanAsia, and South Asian Student Association (SASA) broadly represents the interests of many students of color and consistently advocates for cultural centers, and;

WHEREAS this issue is relevant because the University of Chicago Student Government must advocate on behalf of the students we have been elected to represent, and;

WHEREAS Vice Provost for Diversity Melissa Gilliam and Assistant Vice Provost and Executive Director of the Center for Identity + Inclusion Raja Bhattar have generously met with UChicago United and conveyed their and the administration's preference for a singular Center for Identity + Inclusion (CI+I), rather than multiple cultural centers, and;

WHEREAS cultural centers would be beneficial towards accomplishing President Zimmer's goal of diversity and inclusion because culture-specific centers foster a sense of cultural identity and access to community in a way that a broad CI+I is unable to do because it attempts to accommodate all marginalized groups in one space, and;

WHEREAS cultural centers are successful in many higher-education institutions such as Yale University, Stanford University, Purdue University, and University of Illinois at Chicago, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Chicago Student Government strongly urges the administration to create distinct cultural centers for Black/African American, Latinx, and Asian/Asian-American students, in addition to the Center for Identity + Inclusion.