

FROM THE DESK OF  
ROMEO O. GARCIA



August 29, 2025

Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

**Re: Support for Inclusion of Filipino Studies (FILI) within the API Discipline for the  
ASCCC MQ Handbook Revision**

Dear Members of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges,

On behalf of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS), I write to express our strong support for the inclusion of Filipino Studies (FILI) as a critical component within the Asian American / Asian Pacific Islander (API) discipline in the ASCCC Minimum Qualifications Handbook.

Founded in 1982, FANHS is the first and only national organization dedicated to preserving, documenting, and promoting Filipino American history. For more than four decades, FANHS has worked alongside educators, scholars, and community advocates to ensure that the histories and contributions of Filipino Americans are accurately represented and taught in schools, colleges, and universities across the United States.

Filipino Americans are the second largest Asian American and Pacific Islander community in California and the nation, with deep historical roots dating back to 1587. Despite this, Filipino Studies has historically been marginalized or subsumed under broader categories without recognition of its unique histories, cultures, languages, and contributions. Inclusion of FILI within the API discipline affirms that Filipino Studies is not only integral to Ethnic Studies but also a distinct field of scholarly inquiry

Recognizing FILI as a course indicator will ensure that Filipino Studies is not erased or diminished in our community colleges. Instead, it will allow students to access courses that reflect their lived experiences, validate their cultural identities, and broaden the understanding of Asian American and Pacific Islander histories for all. This is in direct alignment with the statewide commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in higher education.

FANHS fully supports this revision to the MQ Handbook and urges the Academic Senate to adopt this proposal. Doing so will strengthen Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies while ensuring Filipino Studies retains its rightful place as a recognized and vital discipline within California higher education.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to equity, representation, and academic excellence.

Sincerely,

*Romeo O. Garcia*

Romeo O. Garcia, FANHS National Director

**“...gather, document and share Filipino American History...”**

**“Know history, know self. No History, no self.”**

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