



Dear Campus Acquisition Committee,

My name is Aurora Rugerio, the 21-22 ASI Student Government President. I am writing this letter on behalf of the California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) student body.

In October, ASI Student Government Vice President, Vaishnavi Ramprasad, and I, met with Dr. Alicia Virtua, Dean of the Library, to express student concerns regarding the California Mission Paintings in the John Spoor Broome Library. During this meeting, the Dean expressed similar concerns to the ones we brought forth, so I write to you today to further expand on our support to remove this collection of paintings from our university library.

Data shows that as of Fall 2021, Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGs) make up 58.7% of CSUCI's student population<sup>1</sup>, which includes Native American and Alaskan Native. With a student population such as this, ASI Student Government firmly believes that the art being displayed on our campus should be inclusive and make our students feel safe and welcome. We acknowledge the traumas that Native Peoples have endured from the Spanish invasion<sup>2</sup> and want to provide an inclusive environment on our campus that does not promote such actions. Additionally, during the 2021 Presidential Convocation, Interim President Dr. Richard Yao shared with the campus that the University is intentionally focusing on deepening our relationships with the Chumash People and Culture<sup>3</sup>, which again supports our commitment to inclusion. Lastly, the CSU enrollment rate for Native American undergraduate students is very low<sup>4</sup>, so to assist with the enrollment and retention rates for these students, it is important that we make sure that these students feel a sense of belonging on our campus. ASI Student Government believes the deaccession of these paintings from our library would have a positive impact on students' sense of belonging at CI and their retention rates.

In closing, as the ASI Student Government President, I am in full support of removing the California Mission Paintings from the John Spoor Broome Library to create an inclusive and safe environment for all CI students, especially those of Native American backgrounds.

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [aurora.rugerio235@csuci.edu](mailto:aurora.rugerio235@csuci.edu).

Sincerely,

[Aurora Rugerio \(Nov 9, 2021 16:59 PST\)](#)

Aurora Rugerio, President  
ASI Student Government

<sup>1</sup> [https://oneci.csuci.edu/t/IRPEGuest/views/FallEnrollmentpublic/EnrollmentDashboard?iframeSizedToWindow=true&embed=y&showAppBanner=false&display\\_count=no&showVizHome=no](https://oneci.csuci.edu/t/IRPEGuest/views/FallEnrollmentpublic/EnrollmentDashboard?iframeSizedToWindow=true&embed=y&showAppBanner=false&display_count=no&showVizHome=no)

<sup>2</sup> <https://epublications.regis.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1218&context=theses>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.csuci.edu/president/messages/convocation-2021-moving-forward-together.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://laist.com/news/native-americans-are-almost-invisible-on-college-campuses-and-its-hurting-their-chances-for-success>