



**Undergraduate Student
Government**
Statement re: Cultural Centers and
and Programs

September 19, 2022

Huskies,

In the past few weeks, the Undergraduate Student Government has been made aware of student concerns regarding the status of university funding for the Cultural Centers and Programs. In response to these concerns, the UConn Office of Diversity and Inclusion has released a [public statement](#) which responds to the claims of decreased financial support for these programs.

We represent the student body and its concerns. We see, hear, and share students' concerns on this matter, and we acknowledge the troubling nature of the uncertainty and lack of transparency surrounding this issue. In this regard, we advocate on behalf of students in support of the Cultural Centers and Programs.

The University is only growing more diverse. The class of 2026 is the most diverse class in UConn history with a record 47% of students being of color, something that continues to trend in a positive direction every year. As UConn continues to grow more diverse, the University needs to provide the Cultural Centers and Programs with appropriate resources and funding.

The Cultural Centers and Programs have historically been sources of solace and comfort for students from marginalized populations. Multiple programs arose in the 1960s-70s as a result of civil rights struggle and activism, and to students **these programs represent a fundamental and long-standing commitment to diversity and inclusion at the University.** UConn students deeply value and cherish these vital safe spaces on campus. These centers and programs are where students at large, and students of minoritized identities in particular, seek community and academic support. Students deserve to feel heard, represented, and valued within their own community.

It is evident that the Cultural Centers and Programs are currently experiencing financial distress — ranging from student employment to programming, among other issues — and additional resources are needed to meet the needs of our rapidly diversifying student population.

We are calling upon the University to commit to proportionately increasing funding for the Cultural Centers and Programs. As our student body grows in size and diversity, the University must change with the times and increase financial resources where they are needed.

Within USG, we are working to determine how to financially support Tier II cultural organizations and programming connected to the Centers and Programs in the interim. The Undergraduate Student Government believes that actions speak louder than words. Now, we are calling upon the University to do the same.

x Mason Holland

Mason Holland
President

x Ahenkan Akuffo-Parry

Ahenkan Akuffo-Parry
Chief Diversity Officer

X Benjamin Keilty

Benjamin Keilty
Comptroller