Dean William Chafe  
Duke University  
104 Allen Building  
Durham, NC  

Dean Chafe:  

“Education in our times must try to find whatever there is in students that might yearn for completion, and to reconstruct the learning that would enable them autonomously to seek that completion.” ~Allan Bloom  

We see the need, we see the efforts, we see the dedication, and now, we seek completion. Asian American students at this university deserve nothing less. As the Black Student Alliance strives to increase academic awareness and excellence on this campus, we are compelled to write this letter, in conjunction with a resolution, demonstrating our support for progressive academic achievement of Duke University students.  

As an organization, we want to express our sincerest gratitude for the efforts in listening to student needs and acting upon them; the creation of an Asian American Studies Task Force and the support for symposium funding and course development grants are both examples of your dedication and commitment. The efforts put forth by all the administrators, faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students on the Asian American Studies Task Force to plan a strong Asian American Studies program in Duke’s core curriculum are both necessary and appreciated.  

Since the Black Student Alliance is a racially conscious organization, we realize that the creation of an Asian American Studies program is a critical element in fostering educational though, growth, and achievement. This program will address issues that are pertinent to everyone. It challenges traditional models of thought, invokes discussion across ethnic and racial boundaries, and encourages the exploration of differences that define any one group. Above all, the BSA of Duke University believes wholeheartedly in excellence. The University can continue to commit to excellence by instituting an invaluable program.  

As student leaders on campus, we expect our University to thrive long after we graduate. Asian American Studies will fulfill this expectation and will reinforce the administration's current commitment to enhance intellectual life. Our peer institutions, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, and U Penn, have already made university wide commitments to this important area of study with faculty lines, programs, and core curricular courses. If such a commitment is made at Duke, Asian American Studies will not only enhance the University, but Duke will be the leading institution for Asian American Studies in the South.
We see the need and we seek completion. We see the need and we seek excellence. We extend our best wishes to you and the Asian American Studies Task Force in your future planning. The Black Student Alliance is looking forward to a vibrant, thriving Asian American Studies program at Duke.

Sincerely,

E. Abena Antwi
President, Black Student Alliance
Duke University

Cc:
President Nan Keohane
Provost Peter Lange
Dean Karla Holloway
Dean Robert Thompson
Dean William Chafe  
Duke University  
104 Allen Building  
Durham, NC  

November 25, 2002  

Dear Dean Chafe:

The Asian Students Association is grateful for your commitment to the development of Asian American Studies in Duke's core curriculum for now and for the future. The efforts put forth by the administrators, faculty, and students to create a task force, symposium, and course development grants exemplify the imperative need for Asian American Studies at Duke.

However, we recognize we are only in the beginning stages of creating a viable Asian American Studies program or department at Duke University. Therefore, we are writing to ask that you devote your consistent and long-term efforts to developing Asian American Studies at Duke. We are confident students will support you in every way possible as long as they are involved in all planning processes. Asian American Studies will fulfill the high aspirations we have for our University long after we graduate.

Duke has the potential to be the leading institution for Asian American Studies in the South. Since 1587, when Pilipinos* landed on the shores of California to become farm workers, and 1925, when Pilipinos were deemed ineligible for citizenship and anti-Pilipino riots and murders occurred, Asian Americans have contributed to our country's rich and complex history. North Carolina, alone, has a rich history of Asian Americans, and Duke can start locally to become the spearheading institution that contributes to Asian American theory and experience in the entire Southern region of America.

Our peer institutions, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, and U Penn, all have Asian American Studies scholars in their faculty. Making university wide commitments to Asian American Studies in the form of a faculty line, a program, a department, or a course will undoubtedly enhance the Duke environment.

We wish you and the Asian American Studies Task Force the best in your future planning and look forward to a strong Asian American Studies program at Duke.

Thank you for your attention.  
Sincerely,

Christina J. Hsu  
President, Duke ASA

Cc: President Nan Keohane  
    Provost Peter Lange  
    Dean Karla Holloway  
    Dean Robert Thompson

*Pilipino is the correct vocal term referring to peoples from the Phillipines. The "f" sound was created during colonization; the sound is non-existent in Tagalog, the native Pilipino language.
Dear Dean Chafe:

On behalf of Diya, I am writing to express my support for Asian American Studies at Duke University.

I would like to thank you for listening to the student need for Asian American Studies in April and for the Asian American Studies Task Force, symposium funding grants, and course development grants. The efforts put forth by all the administrators, faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students on the Asian American Studies Task Force to plan a strong Asian American Studies program in Duke's core curriculum is necessary and appreciated.

The establishment of Asian American Studies is necessary to both complement and transform the intellectual and social climate at Duke. It addresses issues that are pertinent to everyone. It challenges traditional models of thought, invokes discussion across ethnic and racial boundaries, and encourages the exploration of differences that define any one group.

As a student leader on campus, I expect our University to thrive long after we graduate. Asian American Studies will fulfill this expectation and will reinforce the administration's current commitment to enhance intellectual life. Our peer institutions, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, and U Penn, have already made university wide commitments to this important area of study with faculty lines, programs, and core curricular courses. If such a commitment is made at Duke, Asian American Studies will not only enhance the University, but Duke will be the leading institution for Asian American Studies in the South.

I wish you and the Asian American Studies Task Force my best in your future planning and look forward to a strong Asian American Studies program at Duke.

Sincerely,

Recchik Chatterjee
Co-President, Diya
Duke University

Pratap Raya
Co-President, Diya
Duke University

Cc: President Nan Keohane
    Provost Peter Lange
    Dean Karla Holloway
    Dean Robert Thompson
Dean William Chafe  
Duke University  
104 Allen Building  
Durham, NC

November 21, 2002

Dear Dean Chafe:

On behalf of the Hindu Students Association, I am writing to express my support for Asian American Studies at Duke University.

I would like to thank you for listening to the student need for Asian American Studies in April and for the Asian American Studies Task Force, symposium funding grants, and course development grants. The efforts put forth by all the administrators, faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students on the Asian American Studies Task Force to plan a strong Asian American Studies program in Duke’s core curriculum is necessary and appreciated.

The establishment of Asian American Studies is necessary to both complement and transform the intellectual and social climate at Duke. It addresses issues that are pertinent to everyone. It challenges traditional models of thought, invokes discussion across ethnic and racial boundaries, and encourages the exploration of differences that define any one group.

As a student leader on campus, I expect our University to thrive long after we graduate. Asian American Studies will fulfill this expectation and will reinforce the administration’s current commitment to enhance intellectual life. Our peer institutions, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, and U Penn, have already made university wide commitments to this important area of study with faculty lines, programs, and core curricular courses. If such a commitment is made at Duke, Asian American Studies will not only enhance the University, but Duke will be the leading institution for Asian American Studies in the South.

I wish you and the Asian American Studies Task Force my best in your future planning and look forward to a strong Asian American Studies program at Duke.

Sincerely,

Gaurav Shukla  
President, Hindu Students Association  
Duke University

Cc: President Nan Keohane  
Provost Peter Lange  
Dean Karla Holloway  
Dean Robert Thompson
November 10, 2002

Dean William Chafe
Duke University
104 Allen Building
Durham, NC 27708

Dear Dean Chafe:

On behalf of the Freeman Center for Jewish Life, I am writing to express my support for Asian American Studies at Duke University.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jennifer Bell
President, Freeman Center for Jewish Life
Duke University

Cc: President Nan Keohane
    Provost Peter Lange
    Dean Karla Holloway
    Dean Robert Thompson