

SB-17 Impact on UT ADPAC

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Rachel Joseph (Co-Director of Operations)

Agenda

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**ADPAC and the
MEC**

02

SB-17

03

How to help

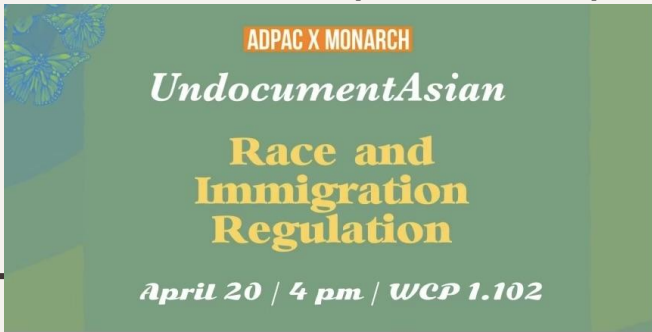
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Discussion

What is ADPAC?

We are the Asian Desi Pacific-Islander American Collective! We serve as a registered student organization that:

- provides community resources,
- identity-based events,
- leadership institutes,
- the tools to fight for Asian American/immigrant rights,
- and plans the **ONLY** graduation event for Asian American students on campus, encompassing over 50,000 students.





NAVIGATING ASIAN AMERICAN IDENTITY

roundtable discussion + journaling reflection

experiences & challenges of navigating cultural identity as 2nd generation Asian American college students at UT Austin

WEDNESDAY, OCT 25
6:00-7:15 PM

*free food!

WCP 1.102 (MEC)

A Town Called Victoria: Episode 1, The Fire | Screening and Discussion

NOV 16th, 2023
6:00-8:00 PM

Perry-Castañeda Library
Learning Lab 1/A

Discussion with director Li Lu and students from Victoria, TX moderated by Noor Khan (Asian American Studies) and Alishba Javaid (ADPAC)

Dinner served

RSVP
<https://tinyurl.com/atowncalledvictoriaut>

The University of Texas at Austin
Center for Asian American Studies
College of Liberal Arts

TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Libraries

TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin
Division of Diversity and Community Engagement

Humanities Institute
College of Liberal Arts
University of Texas at Austin

The Bernard and Audre
RAPPOPORT CENTER
For Human Rights and Justice

South Asia Institute
University of Texas at Austin

ADPAC
Asian Desi Pacific American Collective

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
The University of Texas at Austin




What was the MEC?

The **Multicultural Engagement Center**, formerly Minority Information Center, has been on campus for 36 years. We are:

- a hangout space for all students as often serve as a '**home away from home**' for many.
- provide multiple computer stations, outlets, watch tv, study desks, spaces to talk/hangout with **five full-time dedicated staff!**
- house **five University sponsored student groups**: Afrikan American Affairs (**AAA**), Asian Desi Pacific islander American Collective (**ADPAC**), Latinx Community Affairs (**LCA**), Native American and Indigenous Collective (**NAIC**), Queer Trans Black Indigenous People of Color Alliance (**QTBIPOCA**)

History of the MEC and Student Activism at UT

- Mid-1980s
 - Students held **sit-ins, protested on the mall and demanded UT Austin to withdraw investment** and support for the South African economy.
 - The **student-led anti-apartheid struggle** spurred **increased awareness of racial fissures** on campus.
 - Founder: Michael L. Davis
 - Goal: centralize academic, social and financial support resources available from the university
 - 2014
 - Davis was honored with the **Heman Marion Sweatt Student Legacy Award**. Davis served as **deputy assistant Secretary of Labor** during President Obama's first term and is now a member of the Global Institutional Services management team at T. Rowe Price
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What is SB-17?

Prohibits diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) offices, policies, and programs at state funded universities in Texas

Author: Sen. Brendan Creighton

Date Effective: January 1st, 2024

Date Passed: June 16th, 2023



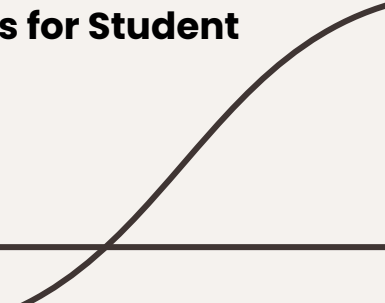
The Breakdown

Constraints on:

1. Prospective Employment
2. Current Employees
3. **University Power** → **increased political oversight, hold on state funds, state compliance audit(every 4 years)**
 - a. anti-DEI ban by Board of Regents
 - b. DEI trainings needed for state law approved by THECB and university counsel

8 exemptions:

Course Instruction, Scholarly Research, **Student Orgs & Activities**, Guest Speakers, Data Collection, **Student Retention** & Admissions, Grants & Accreditation, **Initiatives for Student Achievements or Post-Graduate Outcomes**



SB-17 and its Consequences

Under the exemptions, we should have been fine but ...

- MEC was dissolved last minute AND without notice (during winter break).
- MEC's dissolving did NOT involve student input.
- ADPAC is forced to lose ALL funding from the University.

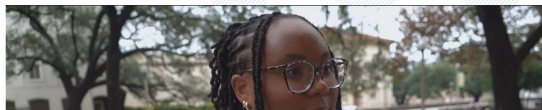
Where ADPAC is now:

- NO funding to throw the **only graduation event for Asian American students** on campus, encompassing over **11,000 students**.
- NO funding for ANY of our signature events: AALI, internship, CE
- NO AAPI alumni network to coordinate for support.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

'This is just the start of it' | UT Austin students feeling effects of DEI ban

UT students said the new law has closed the doors to organizations and cultural grad ceremonies.



The University of Texas at Austin

Division of Diversity and Community Engagement

Dear UT Community,

Earlier this month, President Hartzell updated the campus on Senate Bill 17 (SB 17) implementation. I want to echo his sentiments and share some important news. Starting January 1, our Division will be known as the Division of Campus and Community Engagement to better reflect our work's new scope, nature, and reach. Our name emphasizes that we are here to serve all Longhorns and all Texans as we deepen and broaden the ways that our University facilitates engagement on campus and across a wide range of communities.

This focus on engagement will ultimately increase our impact while leveraging the strengths of the University. While we continue the work to adjust programming to meet SB 17's requirements and reflect this change in our focus, it is important to reiterate what will not change: our Division's commitment to fostering access and belonging.

Multicultural Engagement Center closes because of Senate Bill 17

Naina Srivastava, Senior News Reporter

January 18, 2024



Students walk out of the former Multicultural Education Center on Jan. 18.

Skyler Sharp

In compliance with Senate Bill 17, UT's Multicultural Engagement Center closed on Jan. 1 after decades of serving students. SB 17 prohibits diversity, equity and inclusion offices at all Texas public universities.



The University of Texas at Austin
Office of the President


Dear UT Community,

As the semester comes to a close, I write to update you on Senate Bill 17 (SB 17) implementation. As many of you know, this is the law that provides new parameters regarding diversity, equity and inclusion activities at Texas public universities. As with all new laws, I fully expect that there will be divided opinions on our campus about both the law itself and its eventual impacts on our University. But it is the law, and with compassion and respect for all of our community members, we will comply. I am confident that through our collective talents, effort and leadership, we will focus on permissible ways to effectively support our students, faculty and staff members' continued success and sense of belonging.

In the months since its passage, many people across our University have been working to understand the implications of the new law and to ultimately implement it and ensure that we comply. The UT System (UTS) has also been working to develop the policy that will guide all System institutions on how to implement SB 17, and that policy was adopted as UTS 197 by the Board of Regents at its most recent meeting. I greatly appreciate all the time, effort and care of everyone assisting in these processes, as well as the collective patience our campus community has shown as we have awaited the details we needed for the full transition. Although the law reads as simple, the affected operations across the entire UT System are complex, and it has required a big effort to get to the point where we stand today.

A law in Texas, which went into effect in January, outlaws D.E.I. offices, diversity hiring statements, and faculty and staff diversity trainings. The University of Texas at Austin [closed](#) its Multicultural Engagement Center last month because of the law. And an official said that the university would no longer fund cultural events like graduation ceremonies geared toward Black, Latino and Asian students, according to [the University of Texas at Austin's student newspaper](#).

Our Efforts So Far

- **Joint Statement** with other former agencies on context & demands
 - Affirm former MEC staff job security
 - Establish MEC to previous form as compliant with SB 17
 - Student referendum for future decisions regarding the space
 - **Go Fund Me** raised ~\$1800
 - Used for community engagement events, interns, graduation
 - **Community Partnerships**
 - Center for Asian American Studies (CAAS)
 - Asian Family Support Services of Austin (AFSSA)
 - Asian American Quality of Life Commission
 - **News Interviews** (student, local, state & national publications)
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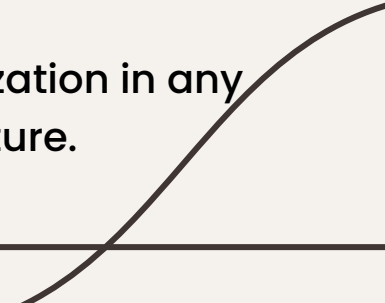
How You Can Help!

We are kindly asking for your support through *any* means:

- **donations** in food, event sponsorships, school materials, **scholarships, grants, equipment, venues, having an employer match your donation**, etc.
- In the scope of this commission, providing a platform for our advocacy, **access to partnering with local initiatives**(AARC), and being creative with your support is prioritized!

Monetary donations to keep our organization going are **highly preferred, especially for our GraduAsian ceremony!**

Please let us know if you would be able to support or sponsor our organization in any other way possible for the remainder of the 2024 school year or in the future.



ADPAC Linktree:

<https://linktr.ee/UTADPAC>

ADPAC GoFundMe:

<http://tinyurl.com/ADPACGFM>

Questions?
