

COALITION FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT HUNTER (CRA²SH)

Mission:

The Coalition for the Revitalization of Asian American Studies at Hunter (CRAASH) is dedicated to rejuvenating the Asian American Studies Program of Hunter College, as well as expanding the program to include a greater variety of courses. CRAASH aims to organize the Hunter community and spread awareness about the inadequate conditions of the AASP. Through petitioning, meeting with faculty, and promoting AASP events, we hope to educate the Hunter community about Asian American issues.

Petition:

We, the undersigned, are concerned students who urge the administrations of Hunter College and the greater CUNY system to actively support the Asian American Studies Program (AASP) at Hunter through, but not limited to, the following initiatives: 1) increasing funding for the program; 2) allocating full-time professors to the program; 3) and allowing more of the courses listed under the program to be offered.

As of September 25, 2007, the Asian American Studies Department at Hunter College is in a very miserable state. Here are some of the inadequate conditions that CRAASH hopes to improve:

- * There is no full time faculty in the AASP. All professors are either adjuncts or faculty from other departments. Adjuncts who have been teaching at Hunter for more than a few years do not get promoted due to a lack of financial investment in the AASP.
- * There is no real office for the AASP. Right now, the AASP is based in the acting head's office. Conditions were so severe in spring 2007 that professors were forced to work in a STORAGE CLOSET (yes, this is 100% true). Even the closet was taken away when a sorority moved in.
- * For fall 2007, there are 17 classes that are offered on Asian American experience, literature, and history. Six of them are the same intro class. Many classes are packed and are in high demand every semester. Most of the courses promised in the Hunter College course catalog are not even offered!!
- * Conditions got so bad last term that the AASP minor was put on hold until fall 2007!

Why do these inadequate conditions exist in a college in NYC where Asians make up

17% of the student population? Why are not ALL Hunter students given the chance to learn about the Asian American experience, ESPECIALLY since it is not taught in lower levels of education?

The answer to all these questions can be found in the amount of interest in the AASP from Hunter students, as well as Hunter College & CUNY Administration. If we generate more interest in these classes and AASP sponsored events, CUNY may invest more funding. This means: AASP faculty, a permanent head of the program, more classes, more events, and maybe ...even an actual OFFICE!!

The AASP is where it is now because there has never been any protest from Hunter students. CRAASH will advocate for positive change, whether it is by petitioning, writing mass letters to Hunter/CUNY administration, tabling to garner student support, and supporting AASP events to spread awareness. However, we need YOUR support and help.