Dear colleagues:

I am writing to announce two major investments that will advance our campus commitments to educational equity and student success. As Vice President for Administration and Finance Jeff Wilson has shared, the campus’s 2021-22 budget allocation earmarks funding specifically for advancing the system-wide Graduation Initiative (GI 2025) and implementing the new Ethnic Studies requirement (EO 1460), directing campuses to prioritize these critical commitments.

To meet both commitments, San Francisco State is creating two new hiring initiatives:

Three new tenure-track faculty positions in the College of Ethnic Studies. Following the passage of Assembly Bill 1460, all CSU students will take a course in Ethnic Studies as part of their General Education requirements. To implement this new requirement, the CSU has earmarked funds on each campus to support faculty hiring and curricular expansion in Ethnic Studies. San Francisco State’s College of Ethnic Studies is rightly recognized as a system and national leader in the development of Ethnic Studies as an academic discipline. In addition, research conducted on our campus confirms that students who take courses in Ethnic Studies show higher levels of retention and graduation than those who do not, regardless of their major. The College is expected to play a leading role in scaling out coursework tied to AB 1460. To meet the demands of the
new requirement, I am authorizing three new tenure-track positions in the College of Ethnic Studies, which will allow the College to develop and deliver the additional courses.

Five new college-based advisors. Advising is one of the central pillars of San Francisco State’s Student Success Plan. Following a major operational review in 2016, the University has significantly reorganized advising to align efforts in the Undergraduate Advising Center and the college-based advising centers and provide students with multiple touchpoints to support their academic progress, retention and graduation. In the wake of 2020’s economic hardships, the University has lost multiple advisors, which has adversely affected students at a time when personal support is more important than ever. Moreover, the loss in professional advisors has put additional pressures on faculty and staff to meet the needs of students. To address this need for professional advisors and advance our campus student success plan, I am pleased to announce that we will hire five new advising positions based in the colleges.

I am grateful for the support of President Mahoney and Vice President Wilson, as well as for the input of Deans Lori Beth Way and Amy Sueyoshi. Together, these initiatives reflect a significant investment in educational equity and student success. I am hopeful that they will yield long-term benefits for our students for years to come.

Best wishes,

[Signature]

Jennifer Summit
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
San Francisco State University