**Statement on Social Justice**

David Vasquez

Social justice means a lot to me personally and matters of equality play a direct role in our day to day lives. A key component of this is that some students have less privilege and can have a much more complex and difficult time finding success in the classroom, in their residential life and upon graduation. As an instructor and adviser I have always striven to create a fair and equitable environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. During my most recent class the Dean of Instruction and interim Dean of Agricultural Science sat in on one of my courses. She wrote this as part of my review, “You do a wonderful job creating an open, welcoming, supportive atmosphere. It’s clear your students feel at ease.”

In this role I would work hard to be an advocate for students who are faced with more hurdles. One thing I have learned is that sometimes this just means listening and realizing I will not be able to fully understand everyone else’s experience. I would work hard to be the best support I could as fits the responsibilities of a First Year Experience Program Coordinator. I also am very familiar with the many resources on campus and even as a teacher educate students about the different cultural centers and other resources available to them. In this role I would strive to make OSU a welcoming and inclusive community where anyone from any background can come and feel accepted and find their path.