AS-3403-19/AA (Rev)
November 14-15, 2019

RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION OF A CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU) ETHNIC STUDIES REQUIREMENT

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) adopt the document titled "Ethnic Studies in the CSU" (Attached); and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU call on the CSU to implement these requirements no later than the 2023-24 academic year[1]; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU recognize that the process by which these requirements were developed, following Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA), was based on appropriate faculty input and other constituency outreach; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU is grateful for the consultative role of the representatives from the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU endorse a requirement that CSU campus approval and review processes explicitly include evaluation by ethnic stud)ies faculty and subject matter experts, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU endorse the underlying values inherent in the recommendation for an ethnic studies requirement, namely:

    a. Student success;

    b. A focus on learning outcomes;

    c. A recognition of CSU campus autonomy in the definition of student-success and implementation of the ethnic studies curriculum; and

    d. The desirability of scaffolding lower and upper division experiences in achieving ethnic studies outcomes

; and be it further,

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[1] Some CSU and California Community College campuses already have ethnic studies or diversity requirements. Individual campuses may adopt local graduation requirements prior to implementation of the system requirement. The system implementation date as a GE requirement has to be far enough out to allow appropriate curriculum development processes.

RESOLVED: That this resolution be distributed to the CSU Chancellor, Timothy P. White, CSU Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs Loren Blanchard, CSU campus Senate Chairs, CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, California State Student Association (CSSA), California State Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber, California State Senator Dr. Richard Pan, CSU Council on Ethnic Studies, CSU-Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (CSU- ERFSA), California Faculty Association (CFA), and the CSU Board of Trustees.

RATIONALE: This resolution is in support of, and defines the parameters for, a CSU ethnic studies requirement (resolved #1).

The proposed timeline (resolved #2), while aggressive, allows the CSU campuses time for curricular revision (Fall 2020 guidance on implementation, Fall 2021 pilot work, Fall 2022 catalog submissions for the 2023/24 catalog year) while also explicitly permitting campuses with preexisting or new campus-specific ethnic studies requirements (for which SB 1440 / Student Transfer Achievement Reform [STAR] Act holds transfer students exempt) to have those in advance of full implementation within CSU General Education (GE) which is required of all students.

The resolution follows up on earlier requests for campus feedback regarding an ethnic studies requirement component for baccalaureate level graduates of the CSU (AS-3397-19/AA "Towards Implementation of an Ethnic Studies System Requirement"). As a reference document, we note that AS-3397-19/AA includes a listing of prior suggestions and actions related to implementation of the proposed ethnic studies requirements. The consultative process (resolved #3, #4) allowed the final recommendation to be grounded in campus practice, disciplinary expertise, and iterative improvement (including being responsive to changes between this first [November, 2019] and the second reading [January, 2020]). Similarly, the explicitness of the recommendation that campus approval and review processes include disciplinary expertise (resolved #4) originate from consultative input.

The structure of the proposed requirements is two-fold. First, there are five student learning outcomes. The first four outcomes cover some of the core elements of Ethnic Studies as a discipline while the fifth ensures that the student "act to engage" appropriate content in a participatory fashion. Second, the implementation guidelines produce a minimal structure on how these outcomes are to be achieved. The primary (and initial) exposure to the ethnic studies

requirement is at the lower-division. This exposure is defined as an overlay to be included as part of lower-division GE (with an allowance for non-GE coursework to be able to be used by a campus to meet the ethnic studies requirement). This achieves two compatible goals – the first is to ensure that all students (both CSU freshmen and California Community Colleges [CCC] transfer students, including those with 1440-compliant transfer degrees) achieve ethnic studies competencies. The second is to ensure that unit requirements within GE are not increased. The implementation structure also requires a secondary exposure to ethnic studies at the upper-division. The upper division exposure (reflection on ethnic studies) ensures a spread of ethnic studies exposure beyond a "one and done" style requirement.

The ethnic studies requirement is deliberately described as "outcomes" rather than "units" (resolved 6) in order to maximally protect campus autonomy – as an overlay across (and potentially beyond) general education coursework the requirement encourages direct assessment of achievement without the "unit distribution" framework currently incorporated in GE; The structure does not preclude a campus from adopting a "course-based" 3-unit framework but leaves that implementation for campus self-determination. Due to the unique structure of this outcomes-based requirement it is especially important that campuses act to ensure the integrity of the requirement in review and assessment processes (resolved 5)

Approved – January 23-24, 2020