



DATE: November 12, 2020

FROM: Talia Bettcher, Chair, Cal State LA Academic Senate

William A. Covino, President, Cal State LA

TO: Chancellor Timothy White
CSU Board of Trustees

Cal State LA Faculty
Academic Senate of the CSU
CSU Campus Senate Chairs
CSU Council on Ethnic Studies

CC: California Faculty Association Statewide President
California Faculty Association Cal State LA Chapter President
California U.S. Senators
Regional U.S. Congressional Representatives for Districts
California State Legislators

SUBJECT: Resolution in Opposition to CSU Chancellor's Proposed Implementation of AB 1460

Please find attached the Resolution in Opposition to CSU Chancellor's Proposed Implementation of AB 1460 that was approved by the Cal State LA Academic Senate on November 10, 2020. We intend this as feedback to the Chancellor's Office's proposed executive order as well as to the Board of Trustees' proposed Title V changes. The Academic Senate supports the Ethnic Studies and American Indian Studies faculty at Cal State LA who oppose placing the requirement exclusively in lower division General Education. Further, we stand alongside our other CSU sister Senates that have passed or are in the process of passing opposition resolutions to the Chancellor's Office and Board of Trustees proposed implementation of the Ethnic Studies graduation requirement.

Sincerely,

Talia Bettcher, Chair, Cal State LA Academic Senate

Cal State LA

Resolution In Opposition to CSU Chancellor's Proposed Implementation of AB 1460

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom signed AB 1460 into law on August 17, 2020 providing an explicit pathway for an Ethnic Studies requirement in the CSU; and

WHEREAS, in opposition to AB 1460, the Chancellor's Office proposed to the CSU Board of Trustees a new General Education Area F of Ethnic Studies and Social Justice and a simultaneous reduction of Area D by 3 units; and

WHEREAS, the CSU Board of Trustees approved said proposal at their July 2020 meeting; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2020, the Chancellor's Office issued a memo requiring campuses to implement the new General Education (GE) requirement, "Area F," mandating that the ethnic studies requirement be lower division; and

WHEREAS, campuses have already experienced tumultuous GE changes in the recent past due to E.O. 1100 Revised and E.O 1110; and

WHEREAS, campuses are strained by contingent emergencies including, but not limited to, the COVID-19 global pandemic; wildfires and other climate-based natural disasters; and an economic downturn affecting State allocations; and

WHEREAS, campus faculty are the experts in designing and executing curriculum and American Indian Studies and Ethnic Studies faculty are experts in Ethnic Studies; and

WHEREAS, the CSU Chancellor's Office memo issued on September 10, 2020 specifies an impossible and unconstructive timeline to ensure appropriate collaboration as required by AB-1460, consultation, deliberation, and conversation among Ethnic Studies and American Indian Studies faculty on the design, construction, and student-centered implementation of Ethnic Studies; and

WHEREAS, there has not been enough time for appropriate consultation within the CSU Council of Ethnic Studies on all aspects of AB 1460 and Title V changes; and

WHEREAS, AB-1460 does not specify the Ethnic Studies course be a GE requirement; and

WHEREAS, AB-1460 does not specify the Ethnic Studies course be an upper-division or lower-division course; and

WHEREAS, the Ethnic Studies and American Indian Studies faculty at Cal State LA oppose placing the requirement exclusively in lower division General Education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate of Cal State LA asks the CSU Chancellor's Office to rescind their Title V July 2020 changes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate of Cal State LA ask that the leadership of the ASCSU and the Chancellor's Office adopt the Ethnic Studies core competencies that the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies presented them with at the first formal collaboration meeting held between all parties on October 14, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that students be given flexibility in meeting the Ethnic Studies requirement with either lower division or upper division courses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that twelve units be retained in General Education Areas D in order to guarantee students fulfill the Title V mandate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CSU Chancellor's Office recognize that Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary field that requires Arts and Humanities *and* Social Sciences, and that the AB1460 ES requirement can be fulfilled in these areas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CSU Chancellor's Office rescind its GE plan because it does not have the authority to restrict this Ethnic Studies requirement to GE and be subjected to GE regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the timeline for implementation be extended to allow for effective and genuine collaboration between the ASCSU and Ethnic Studies faculty as defined in AB 1460; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to the President of Cal State LA, the CSU Chancellor's Office, the CSU Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate of the CSU, the CSU Campus Senate Chairs, the California Faculty Association Statewide President, the California Faculty Association Cal State LA Chapter President, the California U.S. Senators, Regional U.S. Congressional Representatives for Districts, and California State legislators.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we recognize and extend appreciation to Ethnic Studies colleagues at CSU Northridge, SFSU, CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU San Marcos, and Cal Poly Pomona for the resolution template.

Approved by the Academic Senate November 10, 2020