

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

AS-3420-20/AA
March 19-20, 2020

**RESPONSE TO THE CSU CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE MEMO ON RECOMMENDED
IMPLEMENTATION OF A CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU) ETHNIC
STUDIES REQUIREMENT (MARCH 17, 2020)**

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU acknowledge receipt of and commonalities within the recommendations of the Office of the Chancellor, CSU March 17, 2020 memo in response to [AS-3403-19/AA \(Rev\)](#) – *Recommended Implementation of a California State University (CSU) Ethnic Studies Requirement* (Approved January 2020); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU reaffirm its commitment to the recommendations of [AS-3403-19/AA \(Rev\)](#) except as modified below; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU acknowledge and support the preference for greater campus flexibility in meeting the system-wide ethnic studies requirements and thus advocates for the following:

- A campus may operationalize the system ethnic studies requirement and associated learning outcomes in a manner appropriate to its campus culture and context through normal curricular processes.
- The scope of the ethnic studies requirement may include the experiences of additional historically oppressed groups (e.g., Jewish, Muslim, LGBTQ, women, etc.) but should otherwise retain the core definition of ethnic studies from [AS-3403-19/AA \(Rev\)](#).

; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU specifically note that the following considerations covered in [AS-3403-19/AA \(Rev\)](#) remain unchanged:

- The primary ethnic studies requirement to be met within lower division GEs (this may be a course that also counts for another area of GE).
- The desire for all CSU student to have a CSU-experience with ethnic studies (i.e., the upper division reflection element [as determined by the local campus] to encourage content mastery and deep learning).

- The expectation that all students have the ability to complete all of lower division GE within the prescribed 39 units.

; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU urge the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, and the ASCSU to immediately begin the process of revising the relevant sections of Title 5 and the Executive Order (EO) on CSU GE Breadth (EO 1100-Revised), to implement the recommendations of [AS-3403-19/AA \(Rev\)](#), and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to Governor of California; CSU Board of Trustees; CSU Chancellor; CSU campus Presidents; CSU campus Senate Chairs; CSU campus Senate Executive Committees; CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs; California Faculty Association (CFA); California State Student Association (CSSA); Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (CSU-ERSFA); California State Assembly Members; California State Senate Members; and the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies.

***RATIONALE:** The ASCSU appreciates the work done by the many local campus senates and the CSU Office of the Chancellor to produce and solicit feedback relative to the ethnic studies requirement from the many constituencies affected. In particular, the engagement of these bodies in reaching out to the students, faculty, and administrators of the CSU was particularly valued. The ASCSU, as the official voice of the faculty under the Higher Education Employee/Employer Relations Act (HEERA), has endeavored to appropriately guide this curriculum development process.*

Across a variety of input sources, it was clear that there was a strong desire to preserve campus flexibility in determining how a campus might best achieve the ethnic studies outcomes. While the alternative offered by the CSU Office of the Chancellor might be the least difficult to implement, the ASCSU finds that apparent breadth of “ethnic studies, diversity, and social justice” may no longer meet the original intent of the ethnic studies proposal. On the other hand, there was a clear desire to include other historically marginalized groups as well as to optionally include an additional focus on social justice in the new requirement.

The degree of campus flexibility included in [AS-3403-19/AA \(Rev\)](#) as modified herein strikes an appropriate balance between campus autonomy and the goals of including a strong ethnic studies requirement for each CSU

graduate. The [AS-3403-19/AA \(Rev\)](#) proposal as modified herein maintains CSU GE Breadth and campus-based assessment, and carefully balanced campus flexibility with the ability to meet the intent and goals of an ethnic studies requirement.

Approved – March 19-20, 2020