

## **Resolution in Opposition to Title 5 Restructuring of General Education and in Acknowledgement of SDSU’s Ethnic Studies Requirement’s Alignment with AB 1460**

**PREAMBLE:** On August 17, 2020 Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB1460, which stipulates an explicit pathway for an Ethnic Studies requirement in the CSU, by adding the following SEC. 2. Section 89032 to the Education Code:

**(b)** Commencing with the 2021–22 academic year, the California State University shall provide for courses in ethnic studies at each of its campuses.

**(c)** The California State University shall collaborate with the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies and the Academic Senate of the California State University to develop core competencies to be achieved by students who complete an ethnic studies course pursuant to implementation of this section. The council and the academic senate shall approve the core competencies before commencement of the 2021–22 academic year.

**(d)** Commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in Ethnic Studies. The university shall not increase the number of units required to graduate from the university with a baccalaureate degree by the enforcement of this requirement[...]

**WHEREAS,** San Diego State University was among the first universities in the country to create Departments of Africana, Chicana and Chicano, and American Indian Studies and is proud to offer an interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies curriculum developed and guided by faculty experts across our General Education areas; and last year the Senate resolution “Our Community Need for Ethnic Studies” was passed expressing a commitment to help the Center for Asia and Pacific Studies (CAPS) build an Asian American Studies program;

**WHEREAS,** the SDSU Senate resolution “Our Community Need for Ethnic Studies” established an Ethnic Studies 3-unit requirement, taught through SDSU’s Ethnic Studies departments: Africana Studies, Chicana/o Studies, American Indian Studies, and Asian American Studies courses through the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS);

**WHEREAS,** the SDSU Ethnic Studies requirement is currently in legal alignment with the language of AB 1460;

**WHEREAS**, in opposition to the local flexibility inherent in AB 1460, the Chancellor's Office proposed to the CSU Board of Trustees the creation of a new General Education Area F in Ethnic Studies and a simultaneous reduction of 3 units from the lower division Area D, reducing Area D requirements from 9 to 6 units, which was approved at the Trustees' meeting in September 2020;

**WHEREAS**, on September 10, the Chancellor's Office issued a memo requiring campuses to implement the new General Education requirement called "Area F," which unilaterally mandates that the Ethnic Studies requirement be lower division;

**WHEREAS**, the Chancellor's Office memo specifies an impossible timeline to ensure appropriate consultation, deliberation, and conversation among campus faculty on how to design and implement student-success driven curriculum changes;

**WHEREAS**, there had been no formal collaboration between the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies, ASCSU, and Chancellor's Office, nor campus Senates on all aspects of AB1460 including formal collaboration on core competencies, until a recent October 14, 2020 meeting that was the first of several forthcoming collaborative meetings;

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

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

**WHEREAS:** campus faculty are the experts in designing and executing curriculum;

**WHEREAS**, the SDSU Ethnic Studies departments oppose placing the Ethnic Studies requirement in lower division General Education and replacing units set aside for social sciences with Ethnic Studies units;

**WHEREAS**, such action by the Chancellor's office limits campus control of implementation in collaboration with Ethnic Studies faculty experts as per AB 1460 and also restricts faculty control of curricular processes; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, the Academic Senate of San Diego State University urges the Chancellor's Office of the CSU to propose to the CSU Board of Trustees that they rescind their Title 5 July 2020 changes; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Academic Senate of SDSU, the leadership of the ASCSU, and the Chancellor's Office all rescind their acceptance of the previous draft Ethnic Studies core competencies until the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies has met to formally collaborate with CSU Ethnic Studies Department and Program experts and has a chance to discuss, vet, and officially approve the most recent version of Core Competencies, approved at the October 2, 2020 meeting of the CES Implementation Working Group, which incorporates the insights of over 55 Ethnic Studies faculty experts and was further endorsed by 76 of 76 respondents of full body of the CES by October 8, 2020, and adopted by the CES Steering Committee on October 9, 2020,

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

**RESOLVED**, that nine units be retained in General Education Areas D1, D2, and D3 (Social Science and U.S. History and Local Government) in order to guarantee students fulfill Title 5 mandate (American Institutions),

**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,

**RESOLVED**, that the CSU Chancellor's Office rescind its GE plan because it does not have the authority to restrict **either the SDSU nor the AB1460** Ethnic Studies requirement to be 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 mandated in AB 1460,

**RESOLVED**, that the timeline for any GE changes be extended to allow effective campus implementation, including campus flexibility to determine mechanisms of implementation; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this be distributed to Chancellor White, Chancellor-Elect Castro, EVC Blanchard, ASCSU Chair Collins, the Steering Committee of the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies, President De la Torre, Provost Ochoa, CSU Council of Academic Senate Chairs.