

Social Science Division Resolution: Equity for Ethnic Studies

March 8, 2021

Whereas, Ethnic Studies offers an evidenced benefit to all students to succeed academically, professionally, and socially to build a more anti-racist, decolonial, and inclusive society beyond the classroom by providing the theoretical framework and tools necessary to understand the sources and address the impact of systemic & structural racism upon them and the society at large; and

Whereas, Sequoias Community College District has offered Ethnic Studies courses in Black American Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Asian American Studies, and Social Justice Studies since the 1990s without a full-time Ethnic Studies-trained professor until the Fall of 2019, adding to the statewide total of 17 full-time Ethnic Studies-trained professors on 115 campuses across the state, and now offers an AA Degree for transfer in Social Justice Studies with a focus on Chicana/o Studies; and

Whereas, California is one of the most diverse states in the country with California Community College graduates reflecting this diversity and the Sequoias Community College District is committed to intentional, institutional, and transformational education to close gaps in opportunity and achievement to ensure the success of all students, especially historically marginalized student groups; and

Whereas, the Governor of California signed AB1460 into law (August, 2020), making Ethnic Studies a requirement for all 23 Cal State University campuses and degrees. Efforts are also currently underway to pass legislation mandating Ethnic Studies in high schools, and, in fact, several school districts in California, including the three largest K-12 school districts in the state, which includes Fresno Unified School District, have adopted an Ethnic Studies requirement for high school graduation, and Visalia Unified School District initiated two elective Ethnic Studies courses in the fall of 2020; therefore, be it.

Resolved, the Academic Senate supports and requests that the Office of the Superintendent/President, and Board of Trustees for the Sequoias Community College District state publicly their support for and begin sincere conversations on the implementation of the Academic Senate of California Community Colleges' recommendations, included in Resolutions 9.03 and 9.04, for Ethnic Studies graduation, transfer and general education requirements for Sequoia Community College District degrees and for California Community Colleges at large; and be it also

Resolved, that the Academic Senate supports and requests the support of the Office of the Superintendent/President, and Board of Trustees for the Sequoias Community College District for the creation of additional student transfer pathways in Ethnic Studies through the development and offering of supportive courses and curriculum needed to offer an Associate Degree for Transfer in Black American Studies, Asian American Studies, Native American Studies, and LGBTQ Studies; and be it also

Resolved that the Academic Senate supports and requests the support of Office of the Superintendent/President, and Board of Trustees for the Sequoias Community College District state publicly that all instructors assigned to the Ethnic Studies faculty service area must meet the minimum qualifications for the discipline of Ethnic Studies established by the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges' Minimum Qualifications for Faculty and Administrators in California Community Colleges Handbook, qualifications deemed necessary to ensure our students are exposed to the required core Ethnic Studies curricular competencies mandated by AB 1460.

