

## **Statement on institutional process disfluencies in the rush to meet the new CSU Area F requirement**

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*speaking on behalf of herself, not on behalf of her department*

I come to you today with the hope that I can decrease a perceived emergency that isn't an actual emergency and add a focus to your discussions related to the new CSU Area F requirement.

### **The emergency that isn't an emergency**

Some on our campus believe that faculty who teach Area F courses are required to meet Ethnic Studies minimum qualifications. I'm concerned that this belief may lead to a rush on the Equivalency Committee that is entirely unnecessary. In the "[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on AB 1460 \(Ethnic Studies\) and Education Code 89032](#)" released by the CSUs on September 29, 2020, page 6, the question of whether faculty who teach in Area F will have to meet the minimum qualifications to teach Ethnic Studies is addressed. The answer, in short, is no:

"The new Area F of CSU GE Breadth in Ethnic Studies is not a disciplinary requirement; it is a General Education (GE) requirement. No one category in GE is the domain of a single academic discipline (e.g., biology faculty do not solely determine courses for the "Area B2" in CSU GE). Although courses for this GE requirement will likely come from a limited number of departments, and will have structured learning outcomes systemwide (core competencies), the GE program is shaped at the campus level by faculty across disciplines in order to ensure the richest and most broad scholarly foundation for all students. This is accepted practice, not only in the CSU, but nationwide, and it has proven successful in encouraging students to explore new disciplines"

["Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) on AB 1460 \(Ethnic Studies\) and Education Code 89032"](#) released by the CSUs on September 29, 2020, page 6

Faculty who teach in Area F have no need to seek equivalency to teach their approved courses within their own disciplines that are cross-listed with Ethnic Studies courses.

The BC courses that CSU GE Breadth approved last week, with their ETHN cross-listings are:

- HIST B20A/ETHN B20A African American History of the United States to 1877
- HIST B20B/ETHN B20B African American History of the United States since 1865
- HIST B30A/ETHN B30A Early Chicano History -pre 1848
- HIST B30B/ETHN B30B History of Chicanos in the Southwest since 1848
- HIST B36/ETHN B36H History of Native American Indians
- PHIL B35/ETHN B35 Identity and Difference in a Shared World

### **A new focus to add to your discussions**

When we award equivalency to faculty who don't have substantial coursework in the Ethnic Studies discipline we are diminishing a discipline that is not our own. None of us would want our colleagues to diminish our discipline by usurping our right to develop a program and offer courses that we are qualified to teach. Currently, we don't have any full-time discipline experts in Ethnic Studies. In this void, it is our responsibility to protect this discipline and nurture its growth into a program just as we would protect our own discipline.

At the Spring 2021 Plenary session the ASCCC adopted resolution 9.07 S21 Defining Ethnic Studies and its Four Core Disciplines, found on [page 19 of the adopted resolutions](#). The resolution addresses the danger of this void in Ethnic Studies experts leading to a dilution of discipline knowledge on our campus.

“Whereas, With the recent passage of AB 1460, misunderstanding and infringement by non-ethnic studies faculty have arisen in the California Community Colleges system about the definition of ethnic studies, attempting to reduce it to a concept and confusing it with a social justice concept, and such confusion has allowed for attempts at encroachment upon ethnic studies by disciplines whose theoretical foundations and competencies lie in other disciplines with different foundational histories, frameworks, and epistemologies; and

Whereas, The recognition of ethnic studies as clearly defined and valid disciplines allows for the growth of ethnic studies disciplines within the California Community Colleges system in ways that align with current graduation requirements being established by the CSUs that recognize the autonomy of ethnic studies departments, programs, or combined administrative units with multiple departments as distinct disciplines and departments or programs conceived and referred to as a shared initiative;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges recognize, for the purposes of graduation and general education requirements, that ethnic studies is defined as an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race, ethnicity, and culture in the United States, with specific emphasis on four historically defined racialized core groups—Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Latina and Latino Americans—and that ethnic studies is offered through ethnic studies departments and programs, with disciplines focusing on the four autonomous core groups—including Chicana/o Studies, Latina/o Studies, La Raza Studies, African American Studies, Black Studies, Africana Studies, Native American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, Pacific Islander Studies, Filipino American Studies, and Central American Studies<sup>16</sup>—each having distinct epistemologies, theories, and methodologies that center a critical ethnic studies lens...”

[ASCCC 56th Session Spring Plenary Adopted Resolutions](#), page 19

To nurture the development of the Ethnic Studies discipline on our campus, we need to request that the President prioritize the hiring of one or more full-time Ethnic Studies faculty members to: (1) develop Ethnic Studies courses, (2) provide discipline expertise in support of non-Ethnic Studies faculty teaching Area F cross-listed courses, (4) provide input to C-ID in the development of the Ethnic Studies ADT and (5) develop a local Ethnic Studies ADT.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Senate.