



California Faculty Association Resolution for CSU Ethnic Studies

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, on March 20th, 1969, the California State University (CSU) system established the first and only school of Ethnic Studies in the nation, a result of the longest student-led strike in the nation at San Francisco State University, leading to all twenty-three (23) of the CSUs developing courses in Ethnic Studies; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina/o Americans; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies offers a demonstrated benefit to all students—students of color and White students. Regardless of major, students who took Ethnic Studies courses graduated at a much higher rate than their peers in their major who did not take Ethnic Studies classes; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies enable students to succeed academically, professionally, and socially, helping them make valuable contributions to the community, the country and our democracy; and

WHEREAS, in January 2014, CSU Chancellor Timothy White formed a state-wide CSU Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies, recommending that Ethnic Studies become a general education (GE) requirement throughout the CSU system; and

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2017, Chancellor White published Executive Order 1100, which would cap GE credits available for students at forty-eight (48) units maximum, effectively lowering the demand for Ethnic Studies at many campuses; and

WHEREAS, California is one of the most diverse states in the country with CSU graduates reflecting this diversity; and

WHEREAS, the CSU system prepares more of California's teachers (pre-K-12) than all other institutions combined; and

WHEREAS, the state moves in the direction of teaching a curriculum that is inclusive of all of our cultures and backgrounds, making it imperative these graduates acquire the knowledge and skills relevant to their lives and future careers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the CSU require an Ethnic Studies course in the CSU system to ensure that their graduates are exposed to the cultural competencies and social justice

history of the United States necessary for navigating a multi-cultural, rapidly evolving nation; and be it also

RESOLVED, that the California Faculty Association urges the statewide Academic Senate to support this effort and any legislation that accomplishes this goal.

Adopted by the CFA Assembly
April 14, 2019