

Resolution in Support of Ethnic Studies Council Curricular and Budgetary Purview

Resolution #:

Drafted By: Karina Chavarria and Jennie Luna, Co-Chairs of Ethnic Studies Council

Approval Date: April 4, 2023.

Purpose: To endorse the Ethnic Studies Council in working toward requirements of California Assembly Bill 1460, advancing Ethnic Studies Programs development and growth, creation of Ethnic Studies curriculum, and to direct funding mandated for the development of the above.

Resolution:

WHEREAS California State University Channel Islands is both a “student-centered” institution and designated as a “Hispanic-Serving Institution” where curriculum that aligns with students’ own experience is both empowering and increases student success; and

WHEREAS California AB1460 has specified that all students from the California State University system must “develop core competencies” in Ethnic Studies as a General Education requirement; and

WHEREAS The Chancellors’ Office recognized that development of Ethnic Studies curriculum is the purview of faculty, who “remain in charge of defining and delivering the curriculum. The CSU has consistently maintained that the development of degree program requirements and academic courses is the longstanding purview of duly elected faculty via campus-based senates;” and

WHEREAS CSU Channel Islands’ Ethnic Studies Council (ESC) was founded by Ethnic Studies faculty and other faculty who shared concerns and advocacy for the development and growth of ES on our campus. With the passage of AB1460 (August, 2020), the Senate created an ad-hoc Ethnic Studies Task Force to make sure our campus was in compliance with the law. Members of the current ESC served on this committee; and

WHEREAS those faculty that were part of the ES Task Force and on the current ESC have been working in partnership with the Provost’s Office for whom they drafted a clear set of objectives and bylaws to guide their work, including a detailed purpose that includes not only the development of curriculum and spending of CO-mandated funds, but also the evaluation and professional development of faculty and coordination with the CSU-wide Ethnic Studies Council; and

WHEREAS those faculty have worked diligently to fulfill their mandate, while consistently being denied by the Provost access to the money allocated by the State legislature via the CO office; and

WHEREAS the Channel Islands campus lags behind all other CSUs in the development of full-fledged ES programs/departments; and

WHEREAS administrative barriers to funding and a type of derailment in development of Ethnic Studies programs at Channel Islands is both counter to our Mission and against state law; and

WHEREAS the CO office has provided a base allocation of \$300,000 to every CSU. Additional amounts are provided to campuses based on campus full-time equivalent students (FTES) and the percentage of ethnic studies courses offered at the campus, which approximately represents ~\$640,000 annually to CSUCI Ethnic Studies,¹ the reallocation of \$400,000 of public funds earmarked for Ethnic Studies to the University's General Fund is both unethical and antithetical to shared governance;

WHEREAS Ethnic Studies lecturers are being laid off and ES classes are being cut despite CSUCI obtaining monies from the CO specifically earmarked to fund Ethnic Studies courses for our students;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Ethnic Studies Council be recognized by the campus administration and empowered to represent campus faculty to design strong and sustainable Ethnic Studies programs – in order to have the necessary courses for students to be able to fulfill the ES graduation requirement as required by AB1460;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Ethnic Studies Council be recognized as an advocate and critical stakeholder in communications with the administration in hiring future Ethnic Studies faculty and staff and work together to establish new programs and develop existing Ethnic Studies programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ethnic Studies Council be a primary stakeholder in decisions regarding funding allocated for the development of Ethnic Studies programs

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there be transparency in the allocation and distribution of monies provided to the campus for Ethnic Studies and that a faculty-led investigation into the reallocation of \$400,000+ of Chancellor's Office funding be had, and that the results of the investigation be shared with academic senate members,

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to:

Interim Chancellor Jolene Koester,
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Sylvia Alva,
Chair of the Academic Senate of the CSU,
CSUCI President Richard Yao,
CSUCI Provost Mitch Avila,
President's Executive Leadership Team

¹ Date: July 13, 2021

Re: 2021-22 Final Budget Allocations

Attachments: Coded Memo B 2021-02, Attachments A-E