

## HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

### **Sense of the Senate Resolution on Opposition to Chancellor's Proposed Process for Implementation of AB 1460 CSU Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement**

05-20/21-EX – October 13, 2020

**WHEREAS:** Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB1460 on August 17, 2020 which stipulates an explicit pathway for an Ethnic Studies requirement in the CSU, with the following SEC. 2. Section 89032 added to the Education Code, to read:

**(a)** It is the intent of the Legislature that students of the California State University acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them comprehend the diversity and social justice history of the United States and of the society in which they live to enable them to contribute to that society as responsible and constructive citizens.

**(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. This graduation requirement shall not apply to a post baccalaureate student who is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at the university if the student has satisfied either of the following:

- 1) The student has earned a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency; and

**WHEREAS:** In opposition to AB 1460, CSU Board of Trustees (BOT) at their July 2020 meeting approved a Chancellor's Office proposal for a new General Education Area F Ethnic Studies and Social Justice requirement and a concurrent 3-unit reduction in Area D; and

**WHEREAS:** On September 10, 2020 the Chancellor's Office issued a memo requiring campuses to implement the new General Education Area F requirement that also mandates that students meet the Ethnic Studies requirement at the lower division level; and

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

**WHEREAS:** AB-1460 does not specify lower or upper division linkages for the Ethnic Studies requirement; and

**WHEREAS:** campus faculty are the experts in designing and executing curriculum, and Native American Studies, African American Studies, Asian American Studies, and Latina/o Studies faculty are experts in the research and teaching of Ethnic Studies; and

**WHEREAS:** Humboldt State University is proud of established Native American Studies and Ethnic Studies curricula developed and guided by faculty experts; and

**WHEREAS:** The CSU Chancellor's Office memo issued on September 10, 2020 specifies a timeline that precludes the collaboration required by AB-1460 and prevents the prudent measure of ensuring consultation, deliberation, and conversation among Ethnic Studies content expert faculty on CSU campuses and other campus faculty on the design, construction, and implementation of the Ethnic Studies requirement; and

**WHEREAS:** There has not been enough time for appropriate consultation within the CSU Council of Ethnic Studies on all aspects of AB 1460 and Title V changes; and

**WHEREAS:** Campuses have already experienced tumultuous GE changes in the recent past due to EO 1110 and EO 1100 Revised; and

**WHEREAS:** Campuses are strained by contingent emergencies including, but not limited to, the COVID-19 global pandemic, wildfires and other climate-based natural disasters, and economic downturn affecting state allocations and the reduced staff and faculty resulting from these emergencies; and

**WHEREAS:** The Ethnic Studies and Native American Studies faculty at Humboldt State University oppose placing the AB 1460 Ethnic Studies requirement solely in lower division General Education; and

**WHEREAS:** After repeated invitation from the CSU Council for Ethnic Studies (CSUCES) there has been no collaboration between the CSU, the CSUCES and ASCSU to date as required by AB 1460 (Education Code 89032c)<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** The CSUCES disputes the claim in the ASCSU's Resolution 3438-20/AA, September 17-18, 2020 that "Dr. Kenneth Monteiro, chair of CSUCES met informally with the Academic Affairs Committee of the ASCSU and Chancellor's office representatives and shared a sense of agreement about core competencies." The CSUCES has affirmed that this statement can in no way be construed as legally satisfying the legislative requirement of collaboration, nor does it meet the spirit of the law, and that there is no evidence in correspondence or verbal exchange of any process or practice of collaboration as required by law between the three designated bodies: the CSU, CSUCES, and the ASCSU, and

**WHEREAS:** The proposed requirements to place an Ethnic Studies course in lower division General Education and to reduce the number of units in lower division Area D, Social Sciences are in direct opposition to ongoing recommendations made in good faith consultation by the Council of Ethnic Studies at the CSU; now, therefore, be it:

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate of Humboldt State University recognizes CSU faculty as experts in designing and executing university curriculum; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That CSU Ethnic Studies faculty experts are integral to the design and execution of Ethnic Studies curriculum as required by [California law AB 1460](#); and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate of Humboldt State University requests that the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) and the Chancellor's Office rescind their acceptance of the Ethnic Studies core competencies until the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies (CSUCES) and its AB1460 Implementation Committee have been engaged in meaningful consultation and mutually agreed collaboration as required by law; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate of Humboldt State University request that ASCSU leadership and the Chancellor's Office rescind the current AB1460 implementation plan cited in their [FAQs on AB 1460 \(Ethnic Studies\) and Education Code 89032](#), including related Title 5 changes, until the ASCSU and Chancellor's Office have consulted with individual CSU Senates and Ethnic Studies faculty to discuss, vet, and ensure campus autonomy for implementing AB1460; and be it further

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<sup>1</sup> See [CSUCES letter from September 24, 2020](#).

**RESOLVED:** That the timeline for any GE changes be extended to allow for good faith consultation and mutually agreed upon collaboration with CSUCES to ensure effective campus implementation, including campus flexibility to determine mechanisms of implementation; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the University Senate of Humboldt State University requests that the CSU provide evidence of ongoing mutually agreed upon collaboration, correspondence or verbal exchange of any process or practice of collaboration between the CSUCES, ASCSU, and CSU in regard to implementation of AB1460; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the CSU Chancellor's Office rescind its Area F Ethnic Studies GE plan; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That campuses have the autonomy to determine and provide both lower and upper division AB 1460 required Ethnic Studies courses; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That CSU students be given flexibility to meet the AB 1460 Ethnic Studies requirement at either the lower division or upper division level; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That this resolution be distributed to Chancellor White, EVC Blanchard, ASCSU Chair Collins, CSU Council of Ethnic Studies Chair, President Jackson, Provost Capps, Interim Dean Benavides-Garb, the HSU Integrated Curriculum Committee; the HSU GEAR Curriculum and Assessment Committee, and the CSU Council of Academic Senate Chairs.