

Resolution in Support of the Creation of an Ethnic Studies Department at CoA, April 6, 2023

· WHEREAS, In June 2020, the Chancellor's Office released the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Call to Action, which called for, among other things, campuses to audit classroom climate and create action plans to create inclusive classrooms and antiracist curriculum. Historically, Ethnic Studies is the interdisciplinary and comparative study of race and ethnicity with special focus on four historically defined racialized groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders, and Latinos/x. As such, instituting ethnic studies as a graduation requirement for the Associate degree is an important step in diversifying curriculum and one important tool for creating inclusive curriculum; and

· WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies is an interdisciplinary academic discipline clearly defined by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office focused on four historically defined racialized core groups—African Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians, and, Latinos/x—and the program is increasingly concerned with mixed race studies, sexuality studies, diaspora studies, postcolonialism, theories of racial formation, the experiences of other communities of color, and theory/practice of resistance and social movements; and

· WHEREAS, Given the divisiveness of our present economic, environmental, social and political climate Ethnic Studies facilitates students' understandings of; shared struggle, coalition building, political and social activism, and other extraordinary experiences to create a strengthened and revitalized collective multicultural identity through strength and solidarity. Ethnic Studies allows students particularly marginalized groups to see themselves and their communities' experiences reflected in our institution's official curricula and formally acknowledged for their role in the larger society from both a historical and contemporary perspective; and

· WHEREAS, At the July 2021 Board of Governors meeting, the Board unanimously approved revisions to title 5, section 55063, Minimum Requirements for the Associate Degree, adding an ethnic studies graduation requirement. An Ethnic Studies Taskforce was established to support the implementation of the California Community Colleges (CCC) Ethnic Studies graduation requirement. This memorandum provides details about the work and results of the California Community Colleges Ethnic Studies Taskforce.

· Resolved, the COA Academic Senate acknowledges the need for Ethnic Studies, and firmly believes that for the sake of both our students and community, the full potential of Ethnic Studies can only be realized as a distinct department with a unique and independent curriculum and its own AA degree; and

· Resolved, the interdisciplinary, intersectional, and comparative methodologies that permeate Ethnic Studies will forge an academic and intellectual foundation that, as a unique department at COA, will promote unity and growth in all disciplines, and our communities and students from walks of life will benefit from the richness and inclusiveness of this extraordinary field of study. Creating and supporting an Ethnic Studies department at COA will provide the bedrock to its integration across the curriculum and Title V program development; and,

· Resolved, that because there is such value that the courses offered by an Ethnic Studies Department allows students particularly marginalized groups to see themselves and their communities' experiences reflected in our institution's official curricula and formally acknowledged, the COA Academic Senate also submits with this resolution, as a public demonstration of our commitment to the creation of an Ethnic Studies Department, a written recommendation urging the President and Vice President of Instruction move forward in the development of an Ethnic Studies department on our campus, signed by all members of the COA Academic Senate, .

Resolved, that the CoA administration is urged to vocally support the creation of a standalone Ethnic Studies department within LSLA, and to devote resources sufficient to ensure its ability to promote its classes and programs, to develop curriculum and collaborate with other departments, and to secure its future as a fundamental element of the college's academic offerings, campus culture, and community profile.

[1] file:///C:/Users/jcampbell/Documents/ESS%2022-300-008%20CCC%20Ethnic%20Studies%20Implementation%20Updates.pdf