

Resolution: Support for Ethnic Studies at CSULA
LA City Council Resolution Number: 14-0002 S15

WHEREAS, for the past several weeks, California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) has been engaged in a debate about the role of Ethnic Studies in the general education (G.E.) curriculum as the university considers an overhaul of G.E.; and

WHEREAS, the university is seeking a balance between expedience and quality comprehensive education; and this moment presents an opportunity to reflect on what kind of education students should have to emerge as leaders in advancing cultural intelligence as foundational; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies emerged from the Black and Chicano Power movements, Third World Alliances, student organizing, and the progressive awakening of the late 1960's; Ethnic Studies can be defined by the following three primary attributes:

- Subject - Black Studies, Chicano Studies, Latin American Studies, Asian/ Asian-American Studies and other Ethnic Studies units were established to provide intellectual space to examine the histories, cultures, experiences, struggles, and triumphs of people of color and to counter a Eurocentric curriculum.
- Pedagogy - Ethnic studies is rooted in a pedagogy of liberation where students become active participants in their own education rather than repositories of information, valuing, validating, Incorporating and analyzing lived experiences and applied knowledge.
- Epistemology - Ethnic Studies was conceived by the community and born out of community struggle; it remains a community-engaged discipline which is one of the greatest tools for student success; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of Ethnic Studies in the General Education (G.E.) curriculum advances the University mission, and by making Ethnic Studies a requirement we ensure that all students are exposed to both a knowledge base and disciplinary approach to education that prepares CSULA students for success in a rapidly changing world; and

WHEREAS, it has been firmly established that students of color perform better when their learning experiences speak to their lived experiences; a culturally relevant approach raises the level of student performance not only in the immediate classroom experience, but across their educational endeavors, raising graduation rates significantly; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the Academic Senate is a Motion for Ethnic Studies Requirement which would require students to take at least one of their two diversity classes in Ethnic/Area Studies, including classes that are cross-listed with Ethnic Studies units while maintaining and refining an existing requirement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council hereby SUPPORTS a Motion/proposal, currently pending in the Academic Senate of California State University, Los Angeles, which would require students to take at least one of their two diversity classes in Ethnic/Area Studies, including classes that are cross-listed with Ethnic Studies units while maintaining and refining an existing requirement.