

**California State Student Association  
Resolution Supporting Ethnic Studies In The CSU System**

**WHEREAS**, the California State Student Association (CSSA) is the single recognized voice for the 474,000+ students of the California State University (CSU) system<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, one purpose of the CSSA Social Justice and Equity Committee (SJEC) is to ensure access, retention, and quality of education for all underrepresented or/and historically marginalized communities in the CSU system<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of SJEC is to undertake progressive efforts to promote social justice, equity, and multiculturalism through education, communication and action on the local and system levels<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the committee focuses on ensuring students have an equal opportunity to succeed at their education by fostering inclusive campus environments; and

**WHEREAS**, the CSSA Social Justice and Equity Committee aims for all CSU's to take a unified stance in support of ethnic studies and holds the CSU accountable to the continuous support of ethnic studies course offerings and access to them; and

**WHEREAS**, Ethnic Studies courses offered in the CSU system focus on the experiences and identities of racial and ethnic minorities, uses cultural references in teaching and aims to enhance social and political awareness of marginalized and historically oppressed peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, the first school of Ethnic Studies in the nation was cultivated within the CSU system, as a result of the longest student-led strike in the nation at San Francisco State University establishing the first and only College of Ethnic Studies in the country on March 20, 1969<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been eight school districts, independent of the state, that have created ethnic studies graduation requirements for their students including some of the largest in

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<sup>1</sup> [CSSA Constitution](#). Revised and Approved by the Board on September 19, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> "Social Justice and Equity Council." CSSA. Accessed February 16, 2017.  
<http://www.csustudents.org/what-we-do/legislative-affairs/social-justice-and-equity-council/>.

<sup>3</sup> "Social Justice and Equity Council." CSSA. Accessed February 16, 2017.  
<http://www.csustudents.org/what-we-do/legislative-affairs/social-justice-and-equity-council/>.

<sup>4</sup> San Francisco State University. (n.d.). History. Retrieved February 16, 2017, from <https://ethnicstudies.sfsu.edu/home2>

California, such as Los Angeles Unified, San Francisco Unified, Sacramento Unified, and Oakland Unified<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the the National Education Association there is evidence that well designed and well-taught ethnic studies curriculum have positive academic and social outcomes for students<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, CSU Chancellor Timothy White distributed the Report of the California State University Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies to the CSU system on July 13, 2016<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the CSU Chancellor issued a two-year moratorium on the negative alteration of ethnic studies programs, until the conclusion and report of the Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies, and has stated will expire in July 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, although there has been a moratorium placed on changes to Ethnic Studies, its mandate does not translate into campus decision, visible in the fashion that there has been cuts and downsizing on various campuses; and

**WHEREAS**, California State University (CSU) Students of ethnic studies are unable to complete their degree in four years due to a lack of class availability, and the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025 intends to establish a plan to remove obstacles to receiving a baccalaureate degree; and,

**WHEREAS**, The CSU Graduation Initiative 2025 “has established a plan to remove obstacles to receiving a baccalaureate degree” in ways such as class availability for students in all majors; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that CSSA supports all ten Recommendations listed in the Task Force Report, and urges the entire CSU system to adopt the practices within these ten recommendations, however, with suggested adjustments made by the CSSA SJEC to adequately meet the needs to support and execute advancement of ethnic studies on each CSU campus; and be it further

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<sup>5</sup> Uruchima, Tania , '16 (2016) "Implementing Ethnic Studies in California Public Schools,"#CritEdPol: Journal of Critical Education Policy Studies at Swarthmore College: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 4.:<http://works.swarthmore.edu/critedpol/vol1/iss1/4>

<sup>6</sup> Sleeter, Christine E., and National Education Association Research Department. The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies: A Research Review. 2011. <http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/NBI-2010-3-value-of-ethnic-studies.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> White, Timothy P. *Report of the California State University Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies* . Report no. July 13, 2016. The Office of The Chancellor, The California State University. 1-102.<https://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/ethnicstudiesreport.pdf>

**RESOLVED**, that Chancellor White re-evaluate lifting the moratorium placed on negative alteration of ethnic studies programs in the CSU, and provide documentation on how the CSU has been moderating the moratorium thus far; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that CSSA further reiterates the need for the CSU to establish an Ethnic Studies General Education (GE) Requirement throughout the CSU system as reported in the Ethnic Studies Task Force Report per Recommendation 1; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the CSU Chancellor and CSU Board of Trustees not only “increase and maintain regular and consistent hiring” but prioritize funds towards consistent hiring in ethnic studies in order to ensure its vital sustainment and strategic growth per Recommendation 2, and provide a progress report on increasing the tenure density and diversity of our faculty; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the CSU Chancellor and CSU Board of Trustees not only “support curricular development,” but create a sustainable financial and curricular model of continuous ethnic studies program advancements per Recommendation 3, and additionally work with the communities represented to establish curriculum reflective of the community; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the CSSA Social Justice and Equity Committee further requests that advisors, student mentors, advising interns, and counselors should be required to attend a training that addresses the basics of ethnic studies, the value of ethnic studies, and the importance of its educational mission; and be it further;

**RESOLVED**, that CSSA proposes the creation of a specialized system wide committee to oversee and assess the implementation of the recommendations from the CSU Task Force for Advancing Ethnic Studies, and for it to be comprised of students and faculty representatives deriving from Ethnic Studies concentrations, programs, departments, colleges, and Provosts of all CSU campuses; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the CSSA urges the specialized system wide committee to also play a role in moderating the Moratorium placed on Ethnic Studies and make recommendations to Chancellor White including but not limited to the extension or lift of the moratorium; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the CSSA calls for the CSU Board of Trustees to act as leaders in social justice and take action on making the implementation of the Recommendations of the Ethnic studies Task Force mandatory, in lieu of the paramounting national social upheaval demanding an end to institutionalized racism; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the SJEC committee of CSSA draws attention to the need for immediate policy changes to ensure equitable treatment, recognition and advancement of people of color and marginalized communities; and be it further,

**RESOLVED**, that the CSSA urges the CSU Board of Trustees and the Chancellor's Office to enact policies that encourage and support Ethnic Studies in the California State University System with dedicated resources on each of the twenty-three campuses to keep accountable the recommendations made in the Ethnic Studies Task Force Report; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to Governor Jerry Brown of California, the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, the CSU Academic Senate, CSU Campus Presidents, CSU Campus Provosts, and the Associated Students organizations of the CSU.