Resolution in Opposition to the Chancellor’s Proposed Process for Implementation of AB 1460

Whereas, Governor Newsom signed AB 1460 into law on August 17, 2020, providing an explicit pathway for an Ethnic Studies requirement in the CSU; and

Whereas, In opposition to AB 1460, the Chancellor’s Office (CO) proposed to the CSU Board of Trustees a new General Education Area F of “Ethnic Studies and Social Justice,” where “Social Justice” is not part of the letter of the law, and a simultaneous reduction of Area D by 3 units was approved on their July 2020 meeting; and

Whereas, On September 10, 2020, the CO issued a memo requiring campuses to implement the new General Education (GE) requirement, “Area F,” mandating that the Ethnic Studies requirement be lower division; and

Whereas, In order to create the new General Education Area F requirement, Area D-3 will be eliminated; and

Whereas, Under the CO’s implementation plans, departments with courses in the American Cultural Perspectives will need to go through a GE referral process to meet the Area F criteria that has yet to be articulated; and

Whereas, The CO memo issued on September 10, 2020, specifies an impossible timeline to ensure appropriate collaboration as required by AB 1460. This includes consultation, deliberation, and conversation among Ethnic Studies faculty and other campus faculty on the design, construction, and student-centered implementation of Ethnic Studies; and

Whereas, There has not been enough time for appropriate collaboration with the CO, Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU), and the CSU Council of Ethnic Studies (CSUCES), as identified collaborating parties in AB 1460, on all aspects of AB 1460 and Title V changes; and

Whereas, AB 1460 does not clearly specify that the Ethnic Studies course be a GE requirement; and

Whereas, AB 1460 does not specify the Ethnic Studies course to be in a lower-division nor an upper-division course; and therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Academic Senate of the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona is in opposition to the CO’s interpretation of AB 1460 which requires the creation of a new General Education Area F of Ethnic Studies and simultaneously reduce Area D units and specifically D-3, and be it further

Resolved, That the Academic Senate of the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona asks the CO to rescind their Title V July 2020 changes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Academic Senate of the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona asks that the leadership of the CO and ASCSU rescind their acceptance of the Ethnic Studies core competencies until the CSUCES has met with CSU Ethnic Studies Department or Program experts, to discuss, vet, and officially approve the proposed Student Learning Outcomes (core competencies); and be it further

Resolved, That students be given flexibility in meeting the Ethnic Studies requirement with either lower division or upper division courses; and be it further

Resolved, That the current 9 units of lower division be retained in General Education Areas D-1, D-2, and D-3, and be it further

Resolved, That the timeline for implementation be extended to allow for effective and genuine collaboration between the CO, ASCSU, CSUCES, and Ethnic Studies faculty as defined in AB 1460; and be it further

Resolved That this resolution be distributed to the President of Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Chancellor’s Office (CO), CSU Board of Trustees, Academic Senate of the CSU, CSU Campus Senate Chair, California Faculty Association (CFA) Statewide President, CFA Cal Poly Pomona Chapter President, California State Student Association, ASI President of Cal Poly Pomona, California U.S. Senators, Regional U.S. Congressional Representatives for Districts, and California State legislators.

Adopted by the Academic Senate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, on Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Phyllis Nelson, Chair
Academic Senate