



LACCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ETHNIC STUDIES EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS

LOS ANGELES—New ethnic studies requirements that support the new, State-approved graduation criteria for the California State University (CSU) system could soon be implemented at the nine colleges of the Los Angeles Community College District under a resolution passed by the District’s Board of Trustees.

The Board’s resolution “recommends that the Chancellor consult with the District Academic Senate to establish a committee with faculty with disciplinary expertise in ethnic studies and others to examine” the impact of Assembly Bill 1460 and to determine the feasibility of a comparable ethnic studies requirement at LACCD.

AB 1460 requires the CSU system, starting with the 2021-22 academic year, to provide courses and ethnic studies at each CSU campus as part of the requirements for students graduating in the 2024-25 academic year to complete a minimum three-unit course in ethnic studies. Both the Assembly and State Senate approved the measure and it was signed by Governor Newsom on Aug. 17, 2020.

“Having a better understanding of race and ethnic issues must be part of our students’ fundamental understanding of our society,” LACCD Board Vice President Steve Veres said. “We live in a diverse, multi-racial world and ethnic studies will help students understand the importance and value that such diversity brings.”

Vice President Veres and Trustees Buelna and Fong presented the resolution adopted by the Board at its Sept. 2 meeting.

“Given the massive demographic shifts in California and the nation, an ethnic studies requirement at LACCD is timely and beneficial to our community colleges and to our society as a whole – particularly during the current national discourse around, race, equity and inclusion,” said Dr. Gabriel Buelna, 2nd Vice President, LACCD Board of Trustees and co-author of the resolution.

Trustee Mike Fong, who also co-authored the resolution, added:

“In addition to being an academic discipline, ethnic studies is a commitment to a life of justice empowering communities, and to lend a voice to those who have been denied their own voice. An Ethnic Studies requirement at LACCD is an important step to provide attainment of knowledge, respect and a better understanding and appreciation of one another.”

A complete text of the resolution follows.

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About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation’s largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California’s diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/LACCD>, @LACCD, and on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/laccd> @laccd and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/ @laccd_edu.

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Andra Hoffman, President | Steven F. Veres, Vice President | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D., Second Vice President
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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A COMPARABLE ETHNIC STUDIES REQUIREMENT TO THAT OF AB 1460 (WEBER) AT LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT COLLEGES

The following resolution is presented by Trustee Veres, Buelna and Fong.

Whereas, AB 1460 (Weber) requires the California State University (CSU) system commencing with the 2021-22 academic year to provide courses and ethnic studies at each CSU campus and requires as part of the CSU graduation requirements commencing with students graduating in the 2024-25 academic year the completion of a minimum 3 unit course in ethnic studies; and

Whereas, A research review conducted by the National Education Association, The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies, concluded that research evidence shows that well-designed and well-taught ethnic studies curricula have positive academic and social and outcomes for students; and

Whereas, According to the California Faculty Association (CFA) studies have found that both students of color benefit academically and socially from taking ethnic studies courses; and

Whereas, All CSU campuses currently offer ethnic studies and that this measure will help to improve academic and social outcomes for the vast majority of CSU students; and

Whereas, The intent of the legislature is for the CSU students to 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 in order to enable them to contribute to society as responsible and constructive citizens; and

Whereas, AB 1460 according to the Bill's author states that ethnic studies as a requirement for all students will advance a more inclusive society that values the diversity we represent in the following ways:

- Maximizes the knowledge in the classroom by introducing new perspectives that represent a larger universe of experiences in society
- Helps students develop critical thinking skills by understanding their world from multiple perspectives, and group thinking that can be ethnocentric and intolerant of human diversity
- Better prepares our students to be productive and constructive professionals in an increasingly diversified and racial minority state
- Creates a sense of belonging that enhances graduation and success rates for underrepresented students
- Asserts that education that reflects all racial ethnic groups' experiences advances social justice and a democracy that works for everyone, as well as a state curriculum that requires ethnic studies will help students learn lessons from the past to construct a better future; and

Whereas, To create a more seamless pathway for community college students to transfer to the CSU, in 2010 the legislature, in conjunction with the community colleges and the CSU created the Associate Degree for transfer; and

Whereas, On February 21, 2020, the Los Angeles Community College District sponsored AB3310 authored by Assemblymember Muratsuchi, related to community college ethnic studies that would require each community college District to offer courses and ethnic studies at each of its campuses. The bill was held in policy committee as a result of the legislative rules adopted due to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, The community colleges will be required to work with the CSU to re-examine how to best accommodate the new ethnic studies graduation requirement;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Community College District Academic Senate (DAS) is charged under Title 5, Section 53200 of the California Educational Code with representing the faculty of the Los Angeles Community College District in all academic and professional matters (10+1). The 10+1 areas include curriculum, including establishing prerequisites and placing courses within disciplines; and

Whereas, The Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees took a support position on AB 1460; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees recommends that the Chancellor consult with the District Academic Senate, establish a committee with faculty with disciplinary expertise in ethnic studies and others to examine the impact of AB 1460 and begin dialogue to determine the feasibility of a comparable ethnic studies requirement at LACCD.