

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

SS-F19-1 Sense of the Senate Resolution, Opposing AB-1460 while Supporting Ethnic Studies Programs at San José State University

Legislative history: On July 10, 2019, AB-1460, an act to add Section 89032 to the Education Code, relating to the California State University (CSU), to establish a graduation requirement of an ethnic studies course was passed in the California State Assembly Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 4-0-3. This bill will now go to the California State Senate for a vote. If signed into law, the act would go into effect beginning Academic Year 2020-21.

SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION

Opposing AB-1460 while Supporting Ethnic Studies Programs at San José State University

RESOLVED: that the San José State University (SJSU) Academic Senate is in agreement with Chancellor White, all of the CSU Presidents, and the Academic Senate of the CSU in not supporting AB-1460 bill as written because it intervenes inappropriately with the development of curricula which is the purview of faculty; and be it further

RESOLVED: that while the SJSU Academic Senate supports ethnic studies, we believe the curricular needs of our students are best served when each campus, through its collegial shared governance process, finds the most effective means to educate its own unique student body. We oppose any effort to standardize our approach to this subject--whether by the State or by the system administration--since such efforts usually generate unforeseen and destructive consequences that often work counter to their original intent; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the SJSU Academic Senate reaffirms its commitment to curricular development processes by faculty precisely "because the university's curriculum is of central concern to the faculty and because faculty have the primary responsibility in curricular decisions, it follows that faculty should have the major voice in academic policy decisions which closely affect the curriculum, access to the curriculum, or the quality of the curriculum;"¹ and be it further

RESOLVED: that the SJSU Academic Senate reminds the Legislature of its historic commitment to collegial shared governance in the Higher Education Employer-Employee Act (HEERA), which eloquently states that "The Legislature recognizes that joint decision-making and consultation between administration

¹ *Collegiality in the California State University System Academic Senate of the CSU* (1985)

and faculty or academic employees is the long-accepted manner of governing institutions of higher learning and is essential to the performance of the educational missions of these institutions...;" unfortunately, the contemplated legislation intrudes into this important joint decision-making process and undermines the foundations of collegial shared governance over curriculum; and be it further

RESOLVED: that SJSU already supports ethnic studies by requiring all SJSU students to take an upper-division general education course that requires students to "study the interrelationships of individuals, racial groups, and cultural groups to understand and appreciate issues of diversity, equality, and structured inequality in the U.S., its institutions, and its cultures;"² and be it further

RESOLVED: that SJSU has further supported our ethnic studies programs recently through an increase in the number of courses offered, the creation of new curricular pathways such as a forthcoming minor in comparative U.S. race and ethnic studies that draws from a series of race/ethnic studies minors, and strengthening diverse faculty representation through hiring diverse faculty within these and other academic programs; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the SJSU Academic Senate is committed to Ethnic Studies as curricula that deepen the educational experiences of SJSU students and benefit our society and is also committed to the faculty having oversight and responsibility for these curricular decisions; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the SJSU Academic Senate distribute this resolution to the CSU Academic Senate, CSU Board of Trustees, CSU Chancellor White, CSU campus Presidents, CSU campus Senate Chairs, CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs, the California State University Council on Ethnic Studies, the California Faculty Association (CFA), California State Student Association (CSSA), Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (ERFSA), Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC), Academic Senate of the University of California, Governor Gavin Newsom, Assembly Member Ash Kalra, Senator Jim Beall, and the California State Senate.

Approved: August 8, 2019

Vote: 10-0-0

Present: Curry, Del Casino, Faas, Frazier, Marachi, Mathur, McKee, Parent, Shifflett, Sullivan-Green

Absent: Day, Papazian, Peter, White, Wong(Lau)

Financial Impact: None

Workload Impact: None

² San Jose State University (Fall 2014), *Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)*