

**Recommendation: Senate Representation for Ethnic Studies and Social Justice Studies**

**Action:** The Ethnic Studies and Social Justice Studies Department requests that Academic Senate add a senator position for a representative from the Ethnic Studies and Social Justice Studies Department.

**Justification:** The Ethnic Studies and Social Justice Studies Department exists today due to the committed support of this faculty body, which contributed greatly to the development of these programs in recent years. The faculty have shown their commitment to anti-racist practices by calling on management to support a strong and independent department, a department which is rapidly growing with courses in high demand and a new full-time hire set to join us this fall.

Although we reside in a state where disciplines such as Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, and LGBTQ+ Studies are beginning to be supported, there are many other places in the United States where, not only is this important curriculum being banned, but people are being put in physical danger. These communities are under constant threat from efforts to strip basic human rights such as critical medical care for women and trans youth. Texas and Florida are actively legislating our curriculum out of existence. Meanwhile, the ACLU is currently tracking 278 anti-LGBTQ bills in 33 states slated for the 2023 legislative session. The safety of our communities and our programs is far from guaranteed. This is why it is more important than ever to empower them.

Anti-racism practice requires more than speaking pledges. It is actively creating policies and practices which empower these programs and our diverse student body who needs them. We ask for institutional recognition while simultaneously being critical of educational systems to hold academia accountable. Our fields of study have fought for decades to be academically institutionalized with a robust history rooted in the Bay Area. At San Francisco State University, the Black Student Union demanded that the institution create a Black Studies Department, which would lead to the first Ethnic Studies Departments. In our LMC Senate Anti-Racism Resolution, our faculty has committed to “to develop, create, promote and implement anti-racist policies and actions that benefit our campus community.” So, I ask the senate now to support the representation and self-determination of Ethnic Studies and Social Justice Studies with an independent representative to the Academic Senate.

LMC has shown that it values Ethnic Studies and diverse perspectives with its local GE requirement: GE SLO 4 Diverse Perspectives. Moreover, with the CSU Area F requirement and the eventual CalGETC pattern, it would behoove Academic Senate to have faculty represented from Ethnic Studies within its larger governing body. As our Anti-Racism Resolution states, senators have the opportunity now to honor our commitment to “participate in the constant struggle for racial justice which has energized us to make an intentional commitment for real change.”