

Adopted December 1, 1992

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
OF CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, California**

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO A CULTURAL PLURALISM CURRICULUM  
REQUIREMENT**

AS-395-92jCC

**Background Statement:**

Cal Poly is committed to advancing equity, in all of its manifestations, throughout the university community. Moreover, Cal Poly is committed to promoting an educational climate which respects and, indeed, celebrates diversity in all of its wide and various forms: gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, physical ability, and age.

This spirit of tolerance, of seeking to understand the complexity of "cultures," whether technological, ecological, scientific, or humanistic, is appropriate and necessary for all aspects of the university, curricular and extracurricular, and for all members of the university community: students, staff, faculty, and administration.

The "culture" of Cal Poly, as a university in the CSU system, should mirror the diversity of the state it serves. California is now, more than ever, the testing ground for this new, so-called "multiculturalism," a regenerated democracy, really, and offers the opportunity, carries the obligation of this historic, golden state again of the American Dream -- to see how people of many, many cultures, essentially immigrant, emigrant, and mobile, achieve the old democratic hope so associated with American culture and now so newly and urgently desired throughout the world.

The need for incorporating more of these concerns about the multiplicity and multitudinousness of "cultures" in our curriculum is a continuing process. All students need to know more about their own ethnic and cultural heritage, their difference, as well as what commonalities bond us all as citizens of the United State. In appreciating our pluralism we come to newer and stronger appreciation of our kinship as Americans, as a country born into the union of one out of the differences of many.

All universities in the California State University System have taken and are taking steps to revise and invigorate their curricula to take special cognizance of these new yet old hopes of our continuing American tradition.

The question of addressing cultural pluralism in the curriculum at Cal Poly has been discussed for many years. Student and faculty coalitions have actively petitioned for a concrete commitment to this issue on the part of the university. Various select committees have worked hard to devise the ways and means of addressing cultural pluralism, be it as a general education requirement or an ethnic studies minor. The appointment of an Ethnic Studies Director has helped to direct these efforts. Standing committees of the Academic Senate have endorsed criteria for curriculum. It is now time for the Academic Senate to take the first small step to the future.

Submitted by the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee  
October 20, 1992  
C.A. (Tina) Bailey, Chair

**adopted December 1, 1992**  
**AS-39S-92/CC**

**RESOLUTION ON A CULTURAL PLURALISM CURRICULUM REQUIREMENT**

WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of Cal Poly approved Resolution AS-361-91 which states in its second RESOLVED clause,

That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly endorse in principle the need for a "Cultural Pluralism" baccalaureate requirement at Cal Poly and hereby announce its willingness to work towards that goal -- and the advancement of the proposal(s) judged best by university constituencies.... and

WHEREAS, President Baker announced his approval of Resolution AS-361-91 on July 11, 1991; and

WHEREAS, The 1990 Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) evaluation team recommended that Cal Poly address cultural diversity in the required undergraduate curriculum (recommendation #3, January 30-February 2, 1990); and

WHEREAS, A cultural pluralism baccalaureate requirement has been requested by student, faculty and administrative coalitions and has been endorsed by the ASI Cultural Relations Committee and ASI Governing Board, the Educational Equity Commission, the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, the General Education and Breadth Committee, and the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate approve a cultural pluralism baccalaureate requirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the implementation of this requirement begin with the 1994-96 catalog cycle; and be it further

RESOLVED, That existing and new courses be solicited and approved for fulfillment of such a requirement based on the following criteria:

- A. Emphasis on one or more of these four U.S. Cultures: Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, American Indian;
- B. Attention to general issues of gender, diversity, equity, ethnocentricity, and ethnicity; and the relationships to problems facing contemporary society, especially those resulting from racism, discrimination and cultural conflict;
- C. Application of rigorous pedagogical, scholarly methods and standards as evidenced in substantive exams, reports, papers, and projects;
- D. Attention to critical thinking skills which will allow students to address cultural, racial, and gender issues in a sensitive and responsible manner and to evaluate their own attitudes and those of others; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the content of courses submitted for this requirement be reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Academic Senate using the criteria specified above; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this requirement may be fulfilled by courses in Major, Support, General Education and Breadth, or Free Elective category; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the number of courses proposed for the initial implementation of the requirement be of sufficient number, as determined by the Curriculum Committee, so as not to overtly impede the progress of students to their degree objective; and be it further

RESOLVED, That every effort be made to enhance the articulation of this requirement with other postsecondary institutions; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this requirement add no units to general education and breadth or any degree program.

submitted by the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee  
Christina A. Bailey, Chair

## U. S. ETHNIC PLURALISM REQUIREMENT

### PROPOSAL ETHNIC STUDIES COMMITTEE 1992

#### PREAMBLE

This proposal for an undergraduate cultural pluralism requirement represents much effort by many individuals over a long period of time: student coalitions, staff members, faculty committees, deans and administrators.

A request for this kind of proposal is not unique. Universities and colleges throughout the nation and California recognize the importance of such curriculum planning in diversity, equity, and cultural pluralism. Other CSU schools have similar requirements in place, as do many local junior colleges. For purposes of this proposal the term "cultural pluralism" encompasses issues of both ethnicity and gender.

The Educational Equity Commission here at Cal Poly supports such planning. And the GE&B Committee and its blue ribbon subcommittee also supports such initiatives.

The Cal Poly Academic Senate passed a resolution on a U.S. Ethnic Pluralism Program last May 14 (AS-361-91), demonstrating its concern and leadership in educational equity.

President Baker endorsed this resolution May 14, 1991 and has addressed the importance of developing a curriculum which more accurately reflects modern demographics and multiculturalism for all students in today's universities.

#### DESIRED OUTCOMES

To quote from the Educational Equity Commission's Implementation strategies (Draft 2/14/92), "All Cal Poly students should have an awareness and understanding of cultural, racial, and gender issues and problems confronting contemporary society, particularly those resulting from racism and discrimination. Students should have a knowledge of the historical source of current societal states and a view of strategies for addressing these issues. Students should develop an ability to address these issues in a sensitive and responsible manner and to confront their own attitudes and those of others with a critical...mind."

A Statement of possible U.S. Ethnic Pluralism GE&B Knowledge and Skills is attached.

**u. S. Ethnic Pluralism Requirement**  
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**PROPOSAL**

All students are required to complete one of several approved courses which emphasize the cultural pluralism of the united states. Specifically, these courses focus on one or more culture(s) of Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans and/or American Indians, and on issues of gender. Such courses may be used simultaneously to satisfy the u.S. Ethnic Pluralism requirement and count toward GE&B credit.

**Course criteria**

Approved courses meet these criteria:

- A. Emphasis on one or more of these four U.S. cultures: Asian American, African American, Hispanic American, American Indian.
- B. Attention to general issues of gender, diversity, equity, ethnocentricity, and ethnicity; and the relationships to problems facing contemporary society, especially those resulting from racism and discrimination.
- C. Application of rigorous pedagogical, scholarly methods and standards as evidenced in substantive exams, reports, papers, and projects.
- D. Attention to critical thinking skills which will allow students to address cultural, racial, and gender issues in a sensitive and responsible manner and to evaluate their own attitudes and those of others.

**Course Credit Impact**

This proposal adds no units to GE&B, or any degree program.

**u. S. Ethnic Pluralism Requirement**  
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**Sample Anticipated Courses**

Before this requirement is actually in place, both existing and select proposed courses must be approved. The following courses represent the kinds of courses which "might" well fit the criteria for approval:

HIST	328	American Indian History
HIST	325	comparative History of American Minorities
HIST	331	Afro-American History
ENGL	346	Ethnic American Literature
SOC	316	American Minorities
POLS	303	Minority Group Politics
WS	301	Introduction to Women's Studies
ED	302	Multicultural Education in the Secondary School

**Courses which might fit with slight modification and course description changes:**

SOC	315	Race Relations
SPC	316	Cross Cultural Communication
WS	411	Women, Race and Class
PSY	314	Psychology of Women

**These courses are existing courses which might be approved. All courses--existing, adapted, and new--must meet with standing University ESC approval, university curriculum committee and Academic Senate approval. If designated GE&B courses, they must meet with GE&B committee approval as well.**

**Course Approval Procedures**

Course approval will follow regular University curriculum procedures--following establishment of a standing ESC.

- A. A standing Ethnic Studies/Cultural Pluralism Committee will be nominated and appointed through regular committee channels. This will be a University-wide, representative committee--consisting of faculty, students, and P.C.S. (Professional Consultative Services) representative(s) -- which will be the coordinating committee to recommend courses for approval to the GE&B and University Curriculum committees.

**u. S. Ethnic Pluralism Requirement**  
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- B. Approval of courses, in keeping with the above criteria, will follow standard University curriculum procedures.
- C. The projected catalog date when the requirement will take effect is 1994-1996.

Attachments:

Academic Senate Minutes and Resolution dated May 14, 1991  
Memorandum of endorsement from President Baker (7/11/91)  
Knowledge and Skills Draft Statement, Bob Gish to John  
Harrington (2/24/92); the GE&B blue ribbon committee can  
provide other such statements of their own.

State of California

# Memorandum

# RECEIVED

JAN 21 1992

CAL PoLy

SAN LUIS OBISPO  
CA 93407


To Jack D. Wilson, Chair  
Academic Senate

**Academic Senate**

Date : January 19, 1993

FileNo.:

Copies: R. Koob  
G. Irvin

From   
Warren J. Baker  
President

Subject: Academic Senate Resolutions *AS-395-92jCC* and *AS 396-92jCC*

This will acknowledge your memo of January 5 with which you transmitted the two resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate at its December 1 meeting regarding the proposed Cultural Pluralism requirement. Specifically, these were resolutions *AS-395-92jCC*, regarding the Cultural Pluralism Curriculum Requirement, and *AS-396-92jCC*, regarding establishment of a Cultural Pluralism Requirement Subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee.

I am pleased to approve both of these resolutions. The Curriculum Committee and the Senate are to be commended for the manner in which this issue has been addressed. Please extend to all concerned my appreciation for the action on this issue.