

# Los Rios Ethnic Studies Faculty Council

## Minutes

**Tuesday April 6, 2021**

**Time: 2:00-4:00pm**

**ConferZoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/95764008264>**

## Agenda

### Preliminaries

- Call to Order – **2:09pm**
- Attendance – Council Member Introductions (members present in bold)

**Ricardo Caton, ARC**

**Neue Leung, ARC**

**Walter Kawamoto, ARC**

**Nyenbeku George, CRC**

**Alex Peshkoff, CRC**

**Tami Cheshire, FLC**

**Victoire Chochezi, FLC**

Keith Heningburg, SCC

Surangi Frazier, SCC

**Malika Hollinside, SCC**

**Juana Esty, CRC AO Representative**

**Renee Medina, SCC Curriculum Chair Representative**

Guests: Holly Piscopo, SCC

- Approval of Agenda  
Victoire Chochezi Motion, Nyenbeku George Second; All approved
- Approval of Amended Minutes 3/16/21  
Walter Kawamoto Motion, Alex Peshkoff Second; All approved
- Approval of Amended Minutes 3/23/21  
Alex Peshkoff Motion, Nyenbeku George Second; All approved
- Public Comment (3 minutes per person as time permits) None

## Announcements

**DIG Ethnic Studies Meeting for the CID next meeting scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> 12-2:30pm**  
**Everyone is encouraged to attend.**

## Decision Items

Note: Decisions should be discussed at one meeting and voted on in a subsequent meeting. Decision items must be made public 72 hours before a vote can be made per Brown Act.

- Ethnic Studies Flex Workshop during Fall semester Flex week (1 hour & 15 minute) Flex workshop on Thursday August 19, 2021.  
Victoire Chochezi Motion, Walter Kawamoto Second; All approved

## Chair's Report

- Report from the DIG Meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> - CCCESFC TMC/DIG/FDRG
  - The CCC Ethnic Studies Faculty Council (CCCESFC) has 230 members.
  - The CCCESFC has issues with the Social Justice Studies TMC because:
    - the history of choosing Social Justice Studies over Ethnic Studies;
    - Ethnic Studies should have its own TMC and C-ID designation;
    - it can be confusing to students who are wanting to obtain an Ethnic Studies degree.
  - The CCCESFC has asked to get rid of the Social Justice Studies TMC.
  - No progress was made on creating the TMC for Ethnic Studies.
  - The next meeting will be April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Walter Kawamoto explained that he and Ricardo Caton met with Pam Chao regarding the Social Justice department at ARC and the fact that the CCCESFC is opposed to the two co-existing will be news to Pam Chao and different than their original plan at ARC for both departments to work together.
  - Renee Medina shared that the Social Justice Studies and Ethnic Studies are separate in the district but complimentary and that Ethnic Studies will have its own TMC.
  - It is important to know that this is controversial at the state level and there is advocacy for separation between the two areas.
- The resolution regarding cross-listed courses was quickly reviewed to be discussed later in the meeting.
- In another meeting with Julie Oliver, she advised that the flex be focusing on informing the district about Ethnic Studies, not so much on administration. It is not the Council's concern about where FTE is coming from because it is the law and administration needs to come up with the FTE.

## Discussion Items

1. Ethnic Studies Flex Workshop or Flex Series
  - a. Details were talked about during the previous emergency meeting and were shared with the group.
  - b. Alex Peshkoff did some research and spoke with Lisa Abram who is involved with convocation. In the Fall we are most likely not going to have a district wide convocation, so a Flex workshop is the alternative option.

- c. There is time on Thursday August 19<sup>th</sup> during Flex week when we can host a 1 hour & 15 minute workshop. It can be put on the Flex pamphlet for CRC to advertise across the district.
- d. First step is to call a meeting for Council members interested. We need to create the name of the workshop, the description, the time, and the zoom link for now. We have until August 19<sup>th</sup> to figure out the rest.
- e. It would be better if the whole Council participated, with 1-2 people to facilitate.
- f. Structure can include an introduction to Ethnic Studies and questions and answers; it can be totally flexible how we want to run it.
- g. Ricardo Caton stated that he likes the format for how we can present in which all of us do 5 minutes on each topic.
- h. Victoire Chochezi suggested that we might have a keynote speaker who is an expert or popular to draw attendance and attract more participants.
- i. Alex suggested that we pull from the faculty who already teach in our district. We can invite or put it on the radar of admin interested in ES for people who will attend. People who want more information. It was suggested that Belinda Lum be invited as she excellent resource and is involved with CCCESFC.
- j. Victoire Chochezi asked is it for district folks or do we want people from different districts to come as well?
- k. Ricardo Caton said It is key that we focus on Los Rios. He posed the question: What is Ethnic Studies? It must be clear for those of us who are pushing the agenda. It must not be watered down.
- l. Walter Kawamoto suggested that instead of us organizing and saying 'come to our event'; we may consider going to other people's events; for example presenting at a senate meeting or making a presentation at a 'T4E' Teachers for Equity meeting at SCC.
- m. The google doc has been available for everyone to edit and use as a skeleton. Please adjust where your names are listed to areas where you want to present.
- n. Alex Peshkoff, Victoire Chochezi, Walter Kawamoto, Nyenbuku George and Tami Cheshire volunteered to work on this event. Alex Peshkoff will email everyone about scheduling a planning meeting.
- o. Victoire Chochezi suggested we record our Flex presentation and use it to promote the Ethnic Studies message.
- p. Tami Cheshire relayed that Julie Oliver from the DAS said she would be able to support and co-sponsor this Flex event and it is up to us whether or not we would like to speak with her about the resources she could offer.
- q. There was a suggestion to hold a district-wide additional Flex workshop series throughout the semester that could be cosponsored with the District Academic Senate. Folsom Lake College's Equity Center would love to partner with us on this series. They have staff who can help work on flyers, promotion, etc.
- r. Ethnic Studies Video and Canvas page

- i. Victoire Chochezi will follow up with Rawan regarding a Canvas page.
- ii. Malika Hollinside described an idea for a promotional video including faculty, students and information.

## 2. Ethnic Studies Definition

- a. Tami Cheshire shared a definition of Ethnic Studies taken from Area F and AB1460.
- b. The definition of Ethnic Studies is currently being discussed and reviewed by ASCCC. Do we want to come up with our own definition?
- c. Nyembeku George shared that it shouldn't be difficult to come up with a definition, but there shouldn't be many definitions. We should be aware of how folks are defining it and what kind of empirics they are using.
- d. Tami Cheshire shared we should be consistent across the board. She will keep an eye on definitions and bring them to the group. In the meantime, we should be working on a definition of Ethnic Studies to be clear, and one that we can use during our flex presentation.
- e. Victoire Chochezi stated that it is good to be on one page for ourselves, but we should not get hung up on if everybody else doesn't define Ethnic Studies the same way as we do.
- f. Neue Leung asked if we were looking at a definition for ourselves or to be used across the district. The answer was that it should be consistent and be used by both.
- g. Nyembeku George shared that it is important to make sure we are focusing on the right thing instead of constant politics. We need to be protective of what we do and how we shape it. If the Council is not clear it could end up delegitimizing the work and effort. We need to be firm in how we want the district to define it and we have to be fair. It's fair to be firm and how we would like others to get on board.
- h. Tami Cheshire shared that this was not a decision item for today but wanted to bring it up for initial discussion. We will place it on the next agenda for further discussion. She asked if we could bring in research and she will make it a shared google doc so everyone can contribute to the definition.

## 3. Local Ethnic Studies Groups Updates

- a. Ricardo Caton – ARC – Walter Kawamoto drafted ARC's first Ethnic Studies Course (ETHNS300) Friday before spring break. He used FLC's ETHNS300 course as a template. It is now in Socrates for review. Ricardo Caton and Walter Kawamoto are interested in revising the Latinx/Chicanx Studies courses.
- b. Alex Peshkoff – CRC – ETHNS300 is revised and in Socrates. They finished up with ETHNS330: The Asian American Studies course and are revising/writing the Asian American Studies courses. It is ready for adoption and updated in Socrates. There is an Academic Senate meeting this Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> and Alex Peshkoff will report about what the local ES Advisory group has been doing. Has

been in communication with Greg Beyer about the establishment of the Ethnic Studies department. Consultation needs to occur with CRC's administration who initiates departments.

- c. Tami Cheshire – FLC – They are working on getting an ES Department approved at Folsom Lake College through their Academic Senate. The process is different at FLC although administration was consulted, the process begins with faculty signing a form in support of the creation of a new department. Then once the Academic Senate approves, it goes to the President for final approval. It looks like there may be enough support to form an Ethnic Studies department this semester. If anyone would like to help to re-write the Native American Studies courses, Tami Cheshire will be working on those courses.
  - d. Surangi Frazier – SCC – Keith Heningburg and Surangi Frazier were both absent from this meeting. Tami Cheshire provided an overview of what Keith and Surangi have been working on. SCC is in the process of establishing a local advisory group. Malika has been proposed as a co-chair of the SCC advisory group. Keith Heningburg is in discussion with SCC's Academic Senate President and VPI about the process to establish an Ethnic Studies department at SCC.
4. Ethnic Studies Department Resolution Update
    - a. It is on the agenda to be discussed today at the DAS.
  5. Review Proposal/Form for Ethnic Studies Department Creation
    - a. There is a proposal and form shared in the google drive for people to check out and use if they wish but there may be different procedures based on the college to establish an Ethnic Studies department. This is based on FLC's procedure.
  6. Ethnic Studies courses, programs, and degrees (Standing Agenda item)
    - a. Juana shared that there are no decisions or approvals yet. We should hear something by the end of the month.
    - b. Curriculum revision needs to be more uniform across the district as discussed previously. The ETHNS300 course needs to be reviewed and revised across campuses. We are waiting for Area F to know if we need to make changes.
    - c. African American Courses: Keith Heningburg and Malika Hollinside
    - d. Asian American Courses: Alex Peshkoff shared ES 330 is ready to be shared with whomever wants to adopt the course.
    - e. Chicanx/Latinx Courses: Ricardo Caton and Walter Kawamoto will be working on revising these courses. It was mentioned that Surangi Frazier may also be interested.
    - f. Native American Courses: Tami Cheshire will be working on these courses. She will consult Melissa Leal from Sierra College, Melissa Moreno from Woodland and Annette Reed and Brian Baker from Sac State.
  7. Resolution for cross-listed courses
    - a. The resolution is up to the group for us to review.

- b. The question was posed: “Can non-Ethnic Studies faculty create Ethnic Studies curriculum?”
  - c. We have yet to develop the template for each campus to use. Are there any reservations about this resolution?
  - d. As soon as the local ES Advisory groups are established, you need to have a discussion with curriculum chair about who is responsible for sign off on Ethnic Studies courses. Right now at Sac City it is the History Department Chair.
  - e. We want to make sure the right people are in there to sign off.
  - f. Nyenbeku George was asked if he does the approval at CRC to which he responded that he Alex Peshkoff and work closely together.
  - g. Do we have the power to say who can teach Ethnic Studies courses? Who is the gatekeeper? We need more clarification. There are potential problems down the road. CSU is the ultimate gatekeeper for the Area F requirement.
  - h. There is hesitation to put it in writing because it might make it too narrow.
  - i. The question was posed as to across the board, do we feel that the resolution is necessary? Do we need to discuss further before we table it?
  - j. It is evolving, but we are not quite there yet. We are still dealing with the need to iron things out. We need to be clear. The resolution irons things out. It is necessary, but we need to go over it again.
  - k. Resolution will be on next agenda.
8. Beginning discussion on equivalency decisions for hiring was tabled because we ran out of time. Nyenbeku George Motion; Ricardo Caton Second; All in attendance approved.

Adjournment: 4:05pm

### **Upcoming Meetings**

1. Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm-4pm
2. Reminder Friday Workgroup Meetings 10-Noon and 1-3pm open for Council Members working on curriculum revisions, resolutions, flex workshops/sessions, etc.