



Proposed Motion: “Approve proposed language for the Ethnic Studies Referendum.”

Sponsor: AS VP for Diversity, Erick Yanzon

Persons of Contact: AS VP for Diversity, Erick Yanzon and AS VP for Academic Affairs, Hunter Eider

Ethnic Studies Referendum

Proposed Language: “Shall the students of Western Washington University support the revitalization of the College of Ethnic Studies and the implementation of Ethnic Studies Curriculum as a program of study, and include Ethnic Studies courses in the General University Requirements”

Context:

Western Washington University used to have, and was one of the first universities to have a College of Ethnic Studies in the nation back in the 1960s. The college only lasted for a few years due to lack of administrative support as well as lack of funding. The remnants of this college is the current American Cultural Studies Department housed under the Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

In August 2017, the Associated Students of Western Washington University signed [A Resolution Regarding White Supremacy and the Role of Ethnic Studies in Higher Education](#) where it states, WHEREAS, the current Comparative Gender and Multicultural Studies (ACGM & BCGM) graduation requirement is not encompassing of the issues that continues to marginalize students of color, queer and trans students, students with disabilities, and the intersectionality within these identities; and, WHEREAS, research evidence shows that well-designed and well-taught ethnic studies curricula have positive academic and social outcomes for students, and that required diversity courses have a greater positive impact on White Students than on students of color; and, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Associated Students urges Faculty Senate and University Administration to establish Ethnic Studies curriculum within our General University Requirements.