

Los Rios Ethnic Studies Faculty Council

Minutes

Date: Tuesday March 2, 2021

Time: 2:00-4:00pm

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

Agenda

Preliminaries

- Call to Order – **2:00pm**
- Attendance – Council Member Introductions (members present in bold)
All members present

Keith Heningburg, SCC

Surangi Frazier, SCC

Malika Hollinside, SCC

Tami Cheshire, FLC

Victoire Chochezi, FLC

Nyenbeku George, CRC

Alex Peshkoff, CRC

Ricardo Canton, ARC

Neue Leung, ARC

Walter Kawamoto, ARC

Juana Esty, CRC AO Representative

Renee Medina, SCC Curriculum Chair Representative

Guests: Alexandria White (SCC)

- Approval of Agenda
Victoire Chochezi Motion, Nyenbeku George Second; All Approved Consensus
- Approval of Minutes from last meeting discussion
Minutes amended on page two, changed the item about Area F to read,
“The District Curriculum Coordinating Committee for when that will appear.”
Alex Peshkoff Motion to approve amended minutes, Nyenbeku George Second
All approved with edits
- Public Comment (3 minutes per person as time permits) None

Announcements

None

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.

- Curriculum Process flow chart (5 minutes)
- Revised District Council Template for Reviewing Courses (5 minutes)
 - **Victoire Chochezi motioned to table both items, Walter Kawamoto seconded, all approved by consensus**
 - **Both Decision items were Tabled until next meeting to allow more time for research, review and revision**

First Chair's Report

- Keith explained that co-chairs have sometimes met after hours to conduct research to bring back to the Council. The chairs will begin sharing and reporting out on any new information in the Chair's Report at the beginning of each meeting.
- Tami and Keith met with the Academic Senate presidents from all four colleges. They received extremely positive feedback from them in support of the District Council and the development of local advisory groups as well as Ethnic Studies Department development with full time faculty hires and even suggested 'cohort' hires of up to 4 faculty for each college.
- Local college level group information: each college group is separate and independent but connected to the District Council because we as representatives are setting up and leading these local level advisory groups.
- The Academic Senate presidents informed us that if the local groups were to be under the academic senates, as a sub-committee, they have the most voice, power, standing, agency and influence on college decisions.
- The local advisory groups would be the front line at the local college, examining curriculum before it comes to us.
- Tami and Keith attended the C-ID meeting. At the meeting, faculty attendees were extremely frustrated because 10-15+ years ago a Social Justice TMC/ADT was pushed through instead of Ethnic Studies and Ethnic Studies experts/professors have been fighting to keep Ethnic Studies at the CC's all this time. In addition, the recent law has made it even more difficult because CC's are trying to take advantage and subvert Ethnic Studies faculty even more. Keith felt very grateful that our district is offering much more support than other colleges around the state.
- At the state level, there will be an Ethnic Studies C-ID, TMC, and ADT.
- Finally, we would like to ask that more people share in the work of this committee by doing research and bringing resolutions to the Council.

Chair's Report Discussion

- Nyenbeku liked the idea of the Chair's report in order to track and be consistent from each meeting. Asked for clarity on the college level sub-committees.
- Keith explained that having a more formal role for the local groups under local Academic Senates is advisable in order to give them more agency at the local level and it is important since they will be reviewing courses before they come to us.
- Keith explained that it was important to have a uniform naming system for the local advisory groups to avoid confusion between the Council and local groups.
- Renee explained that the power and purview of curriculum is at the local level so our influence would be collegial contact with the local group in order to respect the autonomy of each college.
- Discussion ensued about the purpose and power of the Council vs. the autonomy of the local advisory group and concerns about the Council's lack of control over who is appointed to the local advisory groups once removed and placed under local senates; as well as the local group subverting the Council's directives.
- Nyenbeku and Alex raised important concerns about non-discipline experts being appointed to the local advisory groups by Academic Senate Presidents, taking it out of the control of this Council; and these appointees subverting the local advisory group and the Council's directives.
- Nyenbeku raised an important point about autonomy vs. academic integrity to be true to Ethnic Studies first and the problem with power without knowledge. Appointees by local Academic Senate Presidents to local advisory groups could use their power without knowledge of Ethnic Studies which would potentially diminish the Council's power and ability to influence how Ethnic Studies moves forward at each college and in the district.
- Tami raised a point that it would be in our best interest to connect the local advisory group and the Council, as opposed to having them operate separately. One way to make this connection is through our involvement in establishing and leading these local groups and influencing the local Academic Senate President's appointments of Ethnic Studies content experts and allies to the local advisory groups.
- Surangi mentioned that we could create templates for Ethnic Studies groups at each college where they have the proper implementation and discipline integrity.
- Nyenbeku mentioned that this has to do with power and integrity and the Council's ability to maintain power in order to ensure Ethnic Studies academic integrity.

Discussion Items

Note: Items that the committee is unable to get to can be tabled until the next meeting.

1. Los Rios ES Council Membership (2 minutes)
 - Welcome new members representing Adjunct Faculty, Introductions
 - Malika Hollinside, SCC

- Walter Kawamoto, ARC
- 2. ES Council Review of Responsibilities
 - Continue discussion on process and review flow chart(s)
 - Should the District committee create the curriculum to have a stronger standing in the process? This would be for new courses.
 - The District Council should be earlier in the process to vet courses.
 - Perhaps create templates for each core Ethnic Studies course.
 - How do we create more uniformity of process across the district?
 - **We will continue to revise and evaluate the Flow Chart prior to the next meeting**
 - Review revised Template for Reviewing Courses & other template(s)
 - **Needs further discussion review and revision prior to the next meeting.**
- 3. Updates on sister college local Ethnic Studies Advisory groups
 - **Not able to get to this item due to time constraints**
- 4. Development of Ethnic Studies Departments
 - **Not able to get to this item due to time constraints**
- 5. Standing Agenda Items
 - **Not able to get to this item due to time constraints**

Future Items

- Updates on sister college local advisory group developments & decisions
- Proposals for the future of Ethnic Studies programs, degrees and courses discussion
- Cross Listed Courses further discussion and develop plan of action
- Equivalency decisions for hiring discussion and template development
- Standing Agenda Items
 - Update on existing Ethnic Studies Curriculum & revisions
 - Update on New Ethnic Studies Curriculum
 - Proposals for Ethnic Studies Programs, Certificates, Degree

Adjournment: 4:00pm