

[Draft updated 10/12/2026]

Resolution on the Impact on Faculty Hiring from the Systemic Denial of Native American Indigenous Studies courses and call for an Administrative Review of the CalGETC Approval Process by the CSU Chancellor's Office

Whereas, following the challenge to the review decision and request for additional review, the approval process for Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) courses at San Diego Mesa College has effectively stalled. Establishing Native American Studies has been a longstanding goal of Chicana/o Studies (1970) and Black Studies (1971), dating to the 1970s efforts of Professor John Rouillard of San Diego State University to establish a full-time, tenure-track Native American Studies position. Although that effort was not realized, Native American Studies content was incorporated into interdisciplinary courses in the 1990s, followed by proposals for a Certificate of Completion and Certificate of Achievement in the 2000s. This history reflects decades of efforts to establish Native American Studies at Mesa College. The current delay has impeded advancement of the NAIS curriculum and the full-time, tenure-track position allocated through the 2023–2024 Faculty Hiring Prioritization (FHP) process.

Whereas, the impact of systemic delay¹ in the approval of Native American Indigenous Studies (NAIS) proposed courses for CalGETC transfer has widened an unjust equity gap amongst Native American students².

Whereas, full transparency is needed in the CalGETC review process at the state level including, but not limited to, comprehensive training for approvers *with* Ethnic Studies expertise, clear, non-contradictory communication when providing feedback, clear actionable items to be addressed that provide a path forward towards revision and approval³.

Whereas, current Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) resolutions attempting to address the issues of the CalGETC process have not been taken action on in a timely manner.

Whereas, the SDCCD “Board of Trustees Goals for 2026-2027” states their commitment to “provide resources and services to help students achieve their educational and career goals” by “Increasing access, persistence, and success of disaggregated student groups” and “Reducing equity gaps in access, persistence, and success for disaggregated student groups.”⁴

¹ Highest amount of denied courses in the last 20 years.

² “San Diego Mesa College Course Outcomes Data Dashboard”

<https://www.sdmesa.edu/about-mesa/institutional-research/data-dashboards.shtml>

³ Email documentation between Juliette Parker, Gabriela Kovats-Sanchez, and Cesar Lopez

⁴ “Board of Trustee Goals 2026-2027”

<https://www.sdccd.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/board-goals.aspx>

Be it resolved, that the San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate urges San Diego Community College District administrators to contact the CSU Chancellor's Office (CSUCO) about the CalGETC review process deficiencies and the negative impact it has on our students, faculty and community.

Be it resolved, that the San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate suggests working collaboratively to improve the review process with input from all stakeholders including expert faculty, administrators, and leadership.

Be it resolved, that the San Diego Mesa College Academic Senate request the NAIS faculty hiring process to move forward so that the new faculty member can contribute their disciplinary expertise to help advocate for NAIS courses and curriculum and address the equity gaps of our students.