



October 30, 2020

Dear Chair Talamante

Our department only issues graduate degrees and, as such, we are a bit remote to what the impact overall would be on our campus given the implementation of this legislation applies to undergraduate degrees.

However, our department is very invested in understanding issues of diversity and inclusion relative to the larger social and cultural discourse ramping up before our very eyes since late spring of this year. I have attached here a summary table of some of our recent activity regarding anti-racism and DEI efforts we are undertaking as of summer and fall 2020. This, in combination with my own doctoral work on a Native American Reservation back in 2004 renders me interested and invested in the intent of this bill. As I read it, the intent is to build in a GE requirement that leverages the existing evidence of sensitizing all graduates to complexities of the lived experience of specific individuals who identify as a part of a defined group.

To that end, I am in full support of the already passed Senate Resolution declining the CO five-point plan for implementation for the reasons stated. I do believe that for any of our forward-moving work, we must, out of respect for academic freedom and the most diverse representation of decision-makers, allow the Statewide Ethnic Studies Council to receive input from each campus accordingly for an implementation plan.

I'm not sure I have much in the way of new perspectives or comments on this. I realize I'm speaking to much of what has already been said and addressing in the Resolution.

While I am sensitive to the tight timeline and what the CO reps this past week brought up (additional regs and requirements that also must be adhered to), the sooner we open up this conversation and process for direct, collaborative communication, the better so that we can move forward expeditiously.

Heather

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Departmental Projects on Anti-Racism and DEI

		Meetings are held regularly on Wed evenings beginning fall 2020. Progress made on establishing bylaws/P&P for the committee; survey created and sent out to faculty on current course content; reading list/book club formation is under construction; tracking progress of OT Alumni Network formation
Occupational Therapy Alumni Network	Heather Kitching hkitching@csudh.edu	Meeting with Felicia Hernandez and Gilbert Hernandez in the Alumni Association (https://www.csudh.edu/alumni/meet-our-staff/) held 7/17/20 (Kitching & Ryan). Discussed the many aspects of the university level Alumni Association and our interest in establishing a department-level Alumni group. Received permission and enthusiastic support to do so with one stipulation: not to use "Alumni Association" as our name. I specifically pitched "OT Alumni Network" and they were agreeable. Outreach by email and Facebook Alumni page initiated Summer 2020 and an Excel sheet of interested parties is under construction Fall 2020. <u>Note:</u> The OT department actually has an existing history of alumni network events at state and national conferences as well as other forms of outreach. We already had an established contact list and social media pages in existence. The current effort is a continuation/evolution of a long-standing effort to organize alumni and maintain contact with them for project work of this type.
Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD) Chapter – Student	Student Co-Chairs: Naomi Nelson &	Students filed for chapter status and were accepted Summer 2020. COTAD Chapter is tied to the national organization (https://www.cotad.org/) and is organized at CSUDH as a