EPC 21-22
Sense of the Senate Resolution in Support of
Elevating the Labor Studies Program to the
Department of Labor Studies
Resolution Passes: 11/17/21
In favor: 41/Opposed: 0/Abstained: 2

RESOLVED: That the Labor Studies (LBR) Program be elevated to the status of the Department of Labor Studies.

RESOLVED: That the Department of Labor Studies and its programs, Department Chair, faculty, staff, and students be supported fully as a Department.

RESOLVED: That the Department of Labor Studies chair receive twelve month support by way of leadership and administrative training and professional development opportunities (both at CSUDH and at the CSU Office of the Chancellor (CO)), department chair reassigned time, chair’s salary, and appropriate department staff to be able to carry out their duties.

RESOLVED: That the Department of Labor Studies program have appropriate support staff, hiring lines, and office space to be able to function effectively.

RESOLVED: That the ASCSUDH distribute this resolution to the: President, Provost, Vice Provost, VP Administration and Finance, AVP of Faculty Affairs and Development, HR Director, Deans, Academic Resource Managers, Faculty, Staff, and Associated Students Inc.

RATIONALE: The Labor Studies program currently offers a BA degree, a minor and a certificate as well as an interdisciplinary master’s program. It meets all the criteria, and has gone through the process, to stand as an official department per the Academic Affairs Policy 21-08, based on EPC Resolution 21-09.

Currently the program and its faculty program coordinator function as a department and department chair. However, this is without the status of and support that departments and chairs receive. As such, the program and its faculty program coordinator are carrying the workload of a full department such as Chair duties but lacks the benefits, chairs training and professional development opportunities (both at CSUDH and at the CSU Office of the Chancellor (CO)), reassigned time, and chair’s salary for the accompanying duties. This creates an equity issue that is resolved by elevating the program to a department and supporting it fully.
Further, LBR’s offerings, pedagogies and broad approach are integral to the effective functioning of CSUDH as a comprehensive urban university serving a student population that is amongst the most diverse in the nation. Per its own statement, along with “specialized courses in labor studies, students also take related classes in fields such as history, sociology and economics. Students thus acquire a solid liberal arts education, as well as extensive training in the more practical aspects of labor studies.”

LBR faculty, students, and staff have hosted an annual Labor and Social Justice Fair with partners in the Watts Labor Action Committee (WLAC), UCLA Labor Center, Los Angeles Trade Technical College Labor Center, East LA College, Harbor College, the Dolores Huerta Institute, the Harry Bridges Institute, and the Port of Long Beach, among others. The fair and the labor and educational partners are integral to the community engagement commitment of CSUDH, and economic and environmental development across the region and globe. We acknowledge the program’s inter-departmentally organized Labor and Social Justice Fair organized annually for thirteen consecutive years. We honor the annual work that's done collaboratively across the students, staff, faculty, of the department and university along with community partners.

Additionally, having LBR as a department at CSUDH is fitting both with its distinctive history in the CSU and its current place in the CSU and the region. CSUDH is the birthplace of labor studies within the California State University system (CSU) with its origin in 1977. CSUDH is one of only two universities in the CSU offering Labor Studies and one of only two degree programs in Labor Studies at four-year universities in Southern California.

For these reasons, the Education Policy Committee ((EPC) and Senate Executive Committee (Exec) recommend that the Labor Studies Program be elevated to a Department effective immediately. The Education Policy Committees and the Senate Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, California State University, Dominguez Hills are unanimously in favor of the Labor Studies Program being elevated to the Department of Labor Studies.