

**APPROVED**

2020-21 Annual Report of the Subcommittee on the Breadth  
 Requirement in American Cultures

In fulfilling its charge as established in the Bylaws of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, the AMCULT carried out the following activities during the 2020-21 academic year. Professor Bryan Wagner (English) served as the chair and as an ex-officio member on the Committee on Courses of Instruction.

The Subcommittee reviewed a total of 61 course and instructor proposals and student petitions for satisfaction of Berkeley Division Regulation 300, American Cultures Breadth Requirements. Subcommittee members evaluated proposals and petitions to ensure courses were integrative and comparative; addressed theoretical and analytical issues relevant to understanding race, culture, and ethnicity in American history and society; and, took substantial account of groups drawn from at least three of the following: African Americans, indigenous peoples of the United States, Asian Americans, Chicano/Latinos, and European Americans.

**I. Finished Business**

**A. Actions on Course and Instruction Approvals and Student Petition Requests**

The following chart summarizes the actions of the Subcommittee.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Denied</b>	<b>Pended or Tabled</b>
<b>New Berkeley Course</b>	<b>20</b>	14	1	5
<b>Review of New Instructor for Existing Berkeley Course</b>	<b>29</b>	26	0	3
<b>New Off-Campus Course</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
<b>Student Petition (Berkeley Course)</b>	<b>3</b>	0	2	1
<b>Student Petition (Non-Berkeley Course)</b>	<b>9</b>	3	6	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	43	9	9

**B. Completed Issues**

- The American Cultures Center provided data on who takes AC courses, and who teaches AC courses to the American Cultures Subcommittee. Data was presented at multiple points throughout the year. The American Cultures Center hired a graduate student to collect more data of Summer 2021 and present findings to the Subcommittee in Fall 2021.

**II. AMCULT Correspondence for Review of Academic Senate Policies and Issues**

- A. American Cultures Task Force Proposal Comments: The Subcommittee provided comment to Academic Senate Chair Jennifer Johnson-Hanks about the proposed

American Cultures Task force on September 29, 2020.

### **III. Unfinished Business**

- A. Academic Personnel Policies for Lecturers: A reoccurring theme throughout this academic year was the misalignment between the American Cultures review timeline and the timeline for hiring lecturers. The deadline for AC review is before many departments are ready to hire their lecturers leading to late or very last-minute proposals. This will continue to be a problem as the Subcommittee will continue to require instructors to submit their own proposals and syllabi.
- B. Deadlines for Submission and Approval: The Subcommittee would like to set firm deadlines for AC Review. This stems from a steady stream of proposals for courses that begin weeks after review. The Subcommittee believes that firmer deadlines will create more time for in-depth review and adequate time for instructors to respond to pended proposals.
- C. Online American Cultures Courses: The Committee reviewed several online proposals for AY 20-21. Some of these proposals were for new courses, other proposals were for courses interested in offering online versions of in-person courses. The Subcommittee requested to see data on student experience in online American Cultures courses before making recommendations for future online coursework.
- D. Instructor Re-submissions: The Subcommittee wanted to discuss the potential to have instructors resubmit their courses after a set time period for review. There was not sufficient time to discuss the item and will be discussed at a later date.
- E. Community College Course Re-review: The Subcommittee wanted to discuss the potential to review all Community College courses that have been pre-approved to complete the AC requirement to ensure the current syllabi meet the AC requirement. There was not sufficient time to discuss this item and will be discussed at a later date.