A Resolution in Support of a Diversity Credit Requirement

WHEREAS the goal of the University of Washington is to produce respectful educated global citizens ready to address, “the world’s most pressing challenges”[University of Washington]; and

WHEREAS many of the world’s most pressing challenges involve people with vastly different perspectives, power, and privilege; and

WHEREAS the National Leadership Council of the Association of American Colleges & Universities asserts that successful college students must develop knowledge about diverse cultures, and skills to look at problems from diverse perspectives, and frameworks for ethical action in a global society[National]; and

WHEREAS professional workplaces increasingly require employees to have or gain diversity competencies, including both knowledge of and commitment to diversity and skills such as communicating respect for others who are different [Diversity]; and

WHEREAS the academic study of diversity fosters critical and analytic thinking, challenges students to evaluate assumptions and behaviors, and encourages a vibrant intellectual community free of bias and prejudice; and

WHEREAS a diversity requirement is an established curriculum approach to achieving essential student learning goals at educational institutions across the State of Washington and the nation, including University of Washington’s peer institutions [Contreras]; and

WHEREAS at least 60% of the current students at the University of Washington take at least one class that qualifies as a diversity course [Office of Educational Assessment ]; and

WHEREAS the University of Washington claims “valuing and honoring diversity” as one of its core values [University of Washington]; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT the ASUW supports a diversity credit requirement for all undergraduate students, starting with the incoming class of 2017; and

THAT this requirement be fulfilled by taking two 2-5 credit courses or the equivalent in alternative diversity learning experiences; and:

THAT these credits be allowed to count toward the VPLA and I&S requirements, hence not adding to the total number of credits for graduation; and
THAT diversity classes and alternative diversity learning experience be defined as follows:
A diversity course (or an alternative diversity learning experience) provides students with an understanding of human diversity. A diversity course focuses on one or more socially constructed identities such as race, religion, class, gender, sexuality, ability, age, ethnicity, and nationality. A diversity course has at least 60% content focused on one or more of the following goals:

1. To provide an in-depth analysis of at least one socially constructed identity.
2. To teach about the intersections of socially constructed categories, perspectives and experiences.
3. To teach students to think critically about power, inequality, marginality and activism.
4. To explore the customs, traditions, and cultural expressions (art, dance, music, literature, etc.) as they relate to experiences of power, privilege, oppression and activism.
5. To explore the historical precursors of contemporary power relationships and the interconnected histories of various people as they relate to power, privilege, and oppression.
6. To investigate contemporary society and how institutions like education, law, government, religion, science, health, military, and others contribute to the inequitable distribution of power and privilege in society; and

THAT a process be implemented that will allow students to appeal to their advisers, faculty members, and/or administrators in order to have their classes satisfy the diversity credit; and

THAT the University of Washington provide a sufficient number of online classes that satisfy the diversity requirement for online students; and

THAT the University of Washington provide a sufficient number of seats in classes for the timely completion of this requirement; and

THAT the University of Washington add a "D" notation to all classes that satisfy this requirement in the course catalog; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be provided to Vice President for Minority Affairs and Vice Provost for Diversity Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange, Interim Provost Doug Wadden, ASUW President Conor McLean, Director of University Affairs Evan Smith, Director of Diversity Efforts Jonathan Winn, Faculty Senate Chair Susan Astley, Ed Taylor, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs


