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April 17, 2019

The Honorable Jose Medina
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Assembly Bill 1460 (Weber)** California State University: graduation requirement (as amended
March 21, 2019)

Position: **Oppose**

Dear Assembly Member Medina:

On behalf of California State University San Marcos, I am writing to urge you to oppose AB 1460, authored by Assembly Member Shirley Weber. This bill statutorily prescribes specific course offerings and graduation requirements, undermining the authority and responsibility of campuses and faculty to make these determinations. AB 1460 requires every CSU campus to offer courses in ethnic studies and requires all CSU students to complete a three-unit ethnic studies course as a graduation requirement.

This bill sets a dangerous precedent of allowing government to determine curricula. All course content, degree, and graduation requirements are determined by CSU faculty and administration through the process of shared governance, a historical tradition that is a foundation to institutions of higher education. Circumventing this process would compromise not only our academic freedom, but our commitment to shared governance, and the thoughtful, community-focused curriculum development which has been at the very heart of CSUSM.

Adding our new graduation requirement in diversity took years of research and hard work, as well as thoughtful conversations across campus through a process which included faculty, students, staff, and administrators. It is a great example of how CSU faculty determine how graduation requirements are best met at their individual campuses. Starting in Fall 2020, both Diversity & Equity in the U.S. and Diversity & Equity in Global Contexts will be required for graduation from CSUSM.

I respectfully ask that you oppose AB 1460. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Haynes, Ph.D.
President

The California State University

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