

Chronology of Ethnic Studies at U.C. Berkeley

By

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(From the Newsletter of the Department of Ethnic Studies at U.C. Berkeley,
Volume 2, Number 2, Spring 1997)

This chronology, assembled by Professor Ling-chi Wang, focuses especially on events leading on the structural position within the university of the Department of Ethnic Studies since the department officially began its operations in the Fall Quarter of 1969. The chronology begins with the events leading to the establishment of the department in Fall 1969 to Fall 1996. Of course, other aspects of the department's development could not be included in this timeline. We look forward to opportunities in the future to highlight other aspects of Ethnic Studies.

- *The Editors*

1968

APRIL: The Afro-American Studies Union (AASU) submitted a proposal for a Department of Black Studies to U.C. Berkeley Chancellor Roger W. Heyns.

AUGUST: Professor Andrew Billingsley was appointed the Assistant to the Chancellor to review and plan a Department of Black Studies.

In support of striking farm workers, the Mexican-American Student Confederation (MASC) met with Vice Chancellor O.W. Campbell to ask that the University stop purchasing table grapes. The Business Manager for Housing and Food Services agreed to stop serving grapes.

OCTOBER: Governor of California Ronald Reagan's Agricultural Secretary, Earl Coke, joined Governor Reagan and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Max Rafferty in condemning the grape boycott. U.C. President Charles J. Hitch also instructed U.C. to resume serving grapes in dormitories. The U.C. dormitories resumed serving grapes. Eleven MASC representatives tried to meet with President Hitch and were arrested for unlawful assembly and trespassing. Later this month, President Hitch agreed to establish a Center for Mexican-American Studies with temporary funds and to appoint an assistant to his office.

NOVEMBER: Billingsley submitted a proposal for Black Studies to Chancellor Heyns who promptly referred it to Dean Walker Knight of the College of Letters and Sciences (L&S). Knight asked the L&S Executive Committee to review the proposal.

DECEMBER: The L&S Executive Committee met without student representatives and Billingsley, and revised the proposal by eliminating the community involvement program, field work, and student participation. The committee was unable to decide if Black Studies should be a program or department.

1969

JANUARY: The AASU discussed publicly the need for direct action, including a possible strike. The AASU, MASC, and Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA) formed a united position and began to function as a Third World Liberation Front (TWLF).

January 4: The AASU demanded immediate establishment of a Department of Black Studies.

January 14: A Strike Support Committee was formed to mobilize white student support for the TWLF strike.

January 22: The TWLF Strike began with picket lines at all major entrances of the campus. The TWLF demands included: 1. Establishment of a Third World College with four departments; 2. Minority persons be appointed to administrative, faculty, and staff positions at all levels in all campus units; 3. Additional demands included Admission, financial aid, and academic assistance for minority students; Work-study positions for minority students in minority communities and on high school campuses; 4. Minorities be allowed to control all minority-related programs on campus; 5. No disciplinary action against student strikers.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Local 1570 (Teaching Assistants) called for work stoppage for a week in support of the TWLF strike.

Minority faculty and administrators signed a public statement in support of student demands.

January 28: Outside law-enforcement was brought onto campus for the first time, including California Highway Patrol and Alameda County Sheriffs to protect classroom activities from disruption.

January 29: The police broke up picket lines at Bancroft and Telegraph and at Sather Gate.

January 30: The police began arresting picketing students and the University announced that disciplinary action would be taken against students for violating campus regulations.

The ASUC Senate voted to support the strike.

FEBRUARY 3: The Academic Senate passed a resolution condemning the “disruptive and violent tactics” of striking students and urged the campus to support the administration’s proposal for a department of Afro-American Studies and explore a possible College of Ethnic Studies.

February 4: More students were arrested and twenty students were injured when plainclothes officers attempted to arrest strikers. Police declared people in Sproul Plaza an “illegal assembly: and ordered them to disperse.

February 5: The administration canceled noon rallies in front of Sproul Hall. Governor Reagan declared a “state of extreme emergency” on the Berkeley campus and surrounding area and ordered more Highway Patrol officers to occupy the campus.

February 10: The subcommittee of Dean Knight’s Committee on Ethnic Studies recommended that minority faculty be asked to develop a proposal for the creation of a College of Third World Studies. The TWLF criticized the idea.

February 13: More students were arrested, including AFT Local 1570 members.

February 18: AFT voted to support the strike.

February 19: The police used mace on campus for the first time to control the strike. There were more arrests and injuries to strikers.

Boalt Hall law students protested the ban on rallies on campus.

February 20: The police used tear gas for the first time to disperse students, which resulted in violent confrontations between the police and students. Two police cars were turned over. Fights erupted on campus and on the streets of Bancroft and Telegraph.

February 21: The U.C. Regents voted to suspend students about whom there is “reasonable cause to believe” they violated campus rules.

February 24: Chancellor Heyns met with the TWLF leaders to discuss implementation of a Third World College, but the meeting was inconclusive.

February 26: More arrests and violence occurred, this time aimed at student strike leaders. Students fought with police, who used clubs and tear gas. Chancellor Heyns broke off negotiations with students.

February 27: Governor Reagan ordered the National Guard sent to campus.

MARCH 2: The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees voted to go on strike on March 11.

March 3: The administration announced over 150 student's arrested and 36 students suspended.

March 4: The Academic Senate voted 550 to 4 in support of an interim Department of Ethnic Studies directly under the Chancellor with a promise that its structure would be of "sufficient flexibility to permit evolution into a college."

Chancellor Heyns announced the establishment of the department that would "immediately offer four-year programs leading to a B.A. degree in history, culture, and contemporary experience of ethnic minority groups, especially Black Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans."

March 7: President Hitch approved the Department of Ethnic Studies, which would begin instruction in the Fall Quarter 1969.

March 9: The Academic Planning Committee recommended five full-time employees (FTE) for the department. The recommendation was rejected by the TWLF as insufficient and inadequate.

March 12: Jack Forbes, Director of the Far West Education Laboratory, declined to chair the new department because of inadequate support given to the department. The Coordinators for the four programs appointed were:

Paul Wong, Asian American Studies, Oswaldo Asturias, Chicano Studies, Lehman Brightman, Native American Studies, Ron Lewis, Afro-American Studies.

AUGUST: Paul Wong resigned and Floyd Huen was appointed. Eight faculty FTEs, four FTEs for TAs, and seven staff FTEs were allocated to the new department. Again, the four Coordinators rejected the package as inadequate to support the department.

SEPTEMBER: Billingsley was appointed Acting Chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies.

OCTOBER: The final department budget was approved and included: Seventeen faculty FTEs, six FTEs for TAX and eight for staff.

Ethnic Studies began operations with four programs, offering 34 courses to 990 students.

1970

JUNE: Billingsley resigned as Acting Chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies.

OCTOBER: Professor Carl Mack was appointed Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department.

1971

JUNE 4: Mack informed Chancellor Heyns that it was not feasible for him to run four separate programs and that he had decided to delegate most of his authority to the Coordinators and to function as a Dean.

JULY: Mack set up an Executive Committee to develop a plan for the Third World College.

DECEMBER: Mack resigned as Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department.

1972

JANUARY: Coordinators informed Chancellor Albert Bowker that an Executive Committee would govern Ethnic Studies until a Chair was appointed to replace Mack. Chancellor Bowker refused to appoint a Chair for the department.

MARCH: Chancellor Bowker refused to recognize the Executive Committee. Instead, he dealt with individual Coordinators and treated the four programs separately.

JUNE: Chancellor Bowker fired Professor Ron Lewis and appointed Professor Bill Banks as the Coordinator of Afro-American Studies.

JULY: Chancellor Bowker assigned administrative supervision of Ethnic Studies to the Provost of the College of L&S.

Chancellor Bowker appointed O'Neil Ray Collins to head an External Review Committee to review Ethnic Studies.

OCTOBER: Black students Afro-American Studies classes to protest the firing of Coordinator Lewis and the appointment of Banks.

1973

SEPTEMBER: The Ethnic Studies Executive Committee decided to submit a joint department budget and prepare a draft of the Third World College proposal.

The Collins Committee completed the external review of the department and the outcome of the review was negative. The committee made several sweeping recommendations for the university to take control of the curricula, faculty and management of the department.

OCTOBER 4: The coordinators of the Ethnic Studies programs rejected the major recommendations of the Collins Committee.

DECEMBER: Provost Roderic Park refused to deal with the joint Ethnic Studies budget. Instead, he decided to negotiate with each program separately.

The Afro-American Studies faculty decided to move into the College of L&S, effective July 1, 1974.

1974

FEBRUARY: Coordinator Banks submitted a statement proposing to transfer Afro-American Studies to the College of L&S as an independent department.

APRIL 3: Some of the Afro-American Studies faculty and faculties of the other three programs expressed their opposition to the transfer of Afro-American Studies into the College of L&S.

JUNE 9: The Council for Special Curricula of the Academic Senate approved the B.A. degree program in the Comparative Ethnic Studies group.

June 12: The College of L&S Executive Committee approved the transfer of Afro-American Studies as a department in the Division of Social Science.

June 26: Provost Park approved the transfer, effective July 1, 1974, subject to the approval of several committees of the Academic Senate, the Chancellor and the President of U.C. Professor banks was appointed Chair of the new department.

SUMMER: The Ethnic Studies faculty began to rethink and reorganize its curricula. A Comparative Ethnic Studies curriculum was added to the existing three programs, including a proposed new B.A. degree in Comparative Ethnic Studies.

FALL: The Ethnic Studies Executive Committee reorganized and was charged with the primary responsibility of developing a proposal for the Third World College.

SEPTEMBER: Black students called for a boycott of Afro-American Studies classes to protest the transfer.

September 17: A Third World College proposal was submitted to the Chancellor, which was soon rejected.

OCTOBER 14: Chancellor Bowker retroactively approved the transfer of Afro-American Studies, effective July 1 and transferred 12.5 FTEs from Ethnic Studies to the new department.

The remaining three programs were left in a crisis. Ethnic Studies was forced to review what had happened and what to do next.

1975

MARCH 14: Chancellor Bowker finally agreed to appoint a new chair for Ethnic Studies.

March 20: Professor Clara Sue Kidwell of Native American Studies was appointed Chair of Ethnic Studies. She was the first department chair since December 31, 1971.

JUNE 12: The Committee on Courses approved all the revised courses in Asian American Studies, Native American Studies and Ethnic Studies. The Chicano Studies courses were not permanently approved until June 29, 1977.

JULY 25: A proposal to establish a Division of Ethnic Studies, which would eventually have three departments, was submitted to the administration. Under the plan, Native American Studies would become a department first, followed by Chicano Studies, and then Asian American Studies.

FALL: The Comparative Ethnic Studies Group Major was established.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER: The Division proposal was rejected by various committees of the Academic Senate.

1976

APRIL 15: Ethnic Studies proposed the Council for Ethnic Studies Curricula with authority to review degree programs in Ethnic Studies and to grant undergraduate degrees to students.

1977

Intense conflict over the future direction of the program erupted within Asian American Studies and lasted for two years.

1978

SPRING: The Council for Ethnic Studies Curricula was approved by the Academic Senate. Ethnic Studies faculty gained authority to approve and certify degree programs within Ethnic Studies.

1979

FALL: The Brinner Committee was appointed to conduct the second external review of the department.

1980

AUGUST: The Brinner Committee reported significant progress made by the department. The committee recommended the establishment of a new Division of Ethnic Studies with five departments within L&S, a Ph.D. degree program in Comparative Ethnic Studies, and allocation of more resources for Ethnic Studies.

1981

SPRING: First joint faculty retreat of Afro-American Studies and Ethnic Studies held at the Faculty Club. Out of the retreat emerged two joint projects: to propose an Ethnic Studies graduation requirement for all undergraduates and a jointly developed Ph.D. program in Ethnic Studies.

MAY: Several committees of the Academic Senate rejected the recommendations of the Brinner Committee. Instead, they recommended that existing programs gradually become departments and follow in the footsteps of Afro-American Studies by moving separately into the College of L&S.

1983

The first Ph.D. program in Ethnic Studies was approved. The program was to be approved. The program was to be supported jointly by Afro-American Studies and Ethnic Studies with no additional financial support from the administration. The College of L&S Executive Committee approved all undergraduate degree programs in Ethnic Studies and certified all their courses for fulfilling the College of L&S breadth requirements.

1984

FALL: The first class of Ph.D. students in Ethnic Studies was admitted.

1987

The Academic Senate appointed a Special Committee on Ethnicity and Education to study repeated student demands for an Ethnic Studies graduate requirement.

1988

The Special Committee on Ethnicity and Education recommended an "American Cultures" requirement, but the proposal failed to gain approval of the Senate.

1989

The "American Cultures" breadth requirement was approved by the Senate, effective with the entering freshman class of 1991. The Martinez Committee was

appointed to conduct the third external review of Ethnic Studies; however, after several false starts, it was dissolved.

Ethnic Studies proposed the establishment of an Ethnic Studies Research Center.

1990

The Kirkpatrick/Stack Committee was appointed to conduct the third review of Ethnic Studies.

FALL: In an all-day retreat, the Ethnic Studies faculty voted unanimously to develop a plan to departmentalize all its programs under a Division of Ethnic Studies within the College of L&S and to invite Afro-American Studies to join the Division as one of the departments.

1991

Ethnic Studies was forced to cut its budget as the University experienced the first in a series of budget cuts in five consecutive years.

MARCH 6: Ethnic Studies submitted the plan for a Division of Ethnic Studies to the Kirkpatrick/Stack Committee and requested the support of the review committee. The plan also argued strongly for additional faculty FTEs.

1992

MAY: The Kirkpatrick/Stack Committee completed its review of Ethnic Studies, and recommended an Ethnic Studies Research Center be established, but failed to support the faculty recommendations.

OCTOBER: Ethnic Studies faculty formally responded to the Kirkpatrick/Stack Report and reiterated its desire to departmentalize its programs under a new Division of Ethnic Studies within the College of L&S.

DECEMBER: Ethnic Studies faculty met with Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien, Vice Chancellor John Heilbron, and Provost Carol Christ to discuss the Ethnic Studies faculty's proposals. Provost Christ responded positively to the plan.

1993

FEBRUARY: The ASUC responded to the Kirkpatrick/Stack Report and recommended a Division of Ethnic Studies under the Office of the Chancellor.

SPRING: Various Academic Senate committees responded differently to the Ethnic Studies proposal for departmentalization. Provost Christ announced her opposition to the Ethnic Studies proposal and expressed her support to an Ethnic Studies Research Center.

The Saragoza Committee recommended the integration of various functions of the three Ethnic Studies Libraries, but retention of their separate identities. The Ethnic Studies faculty voted to accept the recommendations and Lilly Castillo-Speed was appointed head librarian of the Ethnic Studies Library.

Ethnic Studies faculty called for a revision of its graduate curriculum.

FALL: The Ethnic Studies faculty again debated the pros and cons of the Division proposal and decided to submit it again to the administration.

1994

JULY 28: Provost Christ again rejected the proposal and recommended instead that the department be moved into the College of L&S.

1995

SPRING: The Ethnic Studies faculty voted to move into the College of L&S.

MAY: Vice Chancellor Christ hosted a reception at the Faculty Club to welcome Ethnic Studies into the College of L&S.

FALL: Ethnic Studies was told by Vice Chancellor Christ to merge and downsize its programs and staff.

1996

SPRING: The Chicano Studies Program changed the name of the program to the Chicano/Latino Studies Program.

OCTOBER 2: The revision of the Ph.D. curriculum was completed, making all its graduate courses truly comparative and interdisciplinary.

The Ph.D. Program in African Diaspora Studies was approved for African American Studies.