

Race and Ethnic Studies Requirement Committee (RESRC)

Background, rationale, and implementation

Background: Upon the development of the university-wide Race and Ethnic Studies Requirement (RESR) for the BA/BS degree at Portland State University, the creation of a Race and Ethnic Studies Requirement Committee (RESRC) to both review and evaluate courses that will meet the RESR will be required. The proposed RESR is supported by the university administration.

Rationale: This proposed constitutional amendment creates the said committee, i.e., the **Race and Ethnic Studies Requirement Committee (RESRC)**. As with the passing of the **RESR**, this action will locate Portland State University as a leader and a model for other institutions who seek to implement a race and ethnicity requirement in Oregon and the nation. As one of the largest public institutions of higher education in the state of Oregon, PSU should lead as a voice of authority and expertise in questions of race and ethnicity.

Proposed Amendment to the Faculty Constitution

The Constitution of the Portland State University Faculty is hereby amended to create the Race and Ethnic Studies Requirement Committee (RESRC), to be constituted beginning Fall 2021, by inserting the following text into Article IV, Section 4(4) in the appropriate alphabetical order, and renumbering other committee listings accordingly:

Race and Ethnic Studies Requirement Committee. This committee shall consist of four ex-officio faculty from the School of Gender, Race, and Nations (SGRN) and three faculty with relevant expertise outside of SGRN (including two with expertise in international, non-US critical race and ethnic studies). It will also include one student enrolled in the SGRN MA certificate program. All members of the committee, including the four ex-officio members, will be voting members.

The committee shall:

1. Examine syllabi and recommend which courses will count toward the RES requirement for BA/ BS degrees,
 2. Recommend courses that will meet the RES requirement to be voted on by the Faculty Senate,
 3. Establish guidelines for reviewing for new courses to receive RES designation,
 4. Review transfer credits to meet the RES requirement when necessary,
 5. Act in liaison with other committees, units, and stakeholders (including undergraduate students) as needed, in reviewing course requirements,
 6. Report to the Faculty Senate at least once each year.
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In accordance with Art. VIII of the Faculty Constitution, the following faculty senators endorse the amendment:

1. Jola Ajibade
2. Enrique Cortez
3. Ramin Farahmandpur
4. Gina Greco
5. Randi Petrauskas Harris
6. Betty Izumi
7. David Kinsella
8. Yves Labissiere
9. Jennifer Loney
10. Michael Lupro
11. Claudia Meyer
12. Rick Mikulski
13. Mary Oswald
14. Jose Padin
15. Vicki Reitenauer
16. Eva Thanheiser

Procedural note from Secretary:

Art. VIII of the Faculty Constitution prescribes a two-stage process for consideration of amendments. The proposed amendment is introduced and discussed, and is subject to modification (amendments to the amendment), at its first reading. The final text (with any approved amendments) is then reviewed by the Advisory Council for "proper form and numbering." The vote on the final text occurs at the next regular meeting. A two-thirds majority is required for approval of constitutional amendments.