MEMORANDUM

TO: De Anza College Academic Senate

FROM: Edmundo Norte, Dean Intercultural and International Studies Division

DATE: July 12, 2017

SUBJECT: Request for Approval of IIS/WMST Courses to Fulfill DAC “ICS Requirement”

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you may be aware, my understanding is that it was about 15 years ago that the De Anza campus community engaged in a vigorous dialogue weighing the multiple issues involved in establishing the “Intercultural Studies (ICS) Requirement”. In the end, the view prevailed that it was in the service of our students, our community, and our society at large for our graduates’ education to include an understanding of the history, research, and knowledge of systemic structures and implicit biases involved in the complex dynamics of some of the most pressing issues in our society. Obviously, this is true now, more than ever.

The Women’s Studies courses developed in the IIS Division were originally designed to be cross-listed as ICS/WMST courses because their purpose was to bring the same interdisciplinary, intersectional, critical lens to examining Women’s issues as with other areas of focus within ICS (African/African American Studies, Asian/Asian Am Studies, Chicanx/Latinx Studies, and Native American Studies). The technical assigning of the WMST prefix to Women’s Study courses developed within our division should no more disqualify it from meeting the “ICS” requirement that if we ran out of ICS course numbers and needed to give Asian American Studies courses a new “ASNM” prefix, or African American Studies an “AFAM” prefix. I would be happy to work with the Academic Senate to develop more specific criteria that articulate the intention and purpose of the ICS requirement.

My request to you is to honor the purpose and logic of the ICS requirement and give your formal endorsement and approval of the following list of courses developed within IIS Division to meet the De Anza AA ICS requirement:

WMST1 Introduction to Women’s Studies

WMST 8 Women of Color in the US

WMST 22 Asian American Pacific Islander Women

WMST24 Women and Gender in Global Perspective

WMST25 Black Feminism

WMST26 La Mujer: Latina Life and Experience

WMST27 Women and Gendered Violence

WMST29 Masculinites in US Culture and Society

WMST31 Women and Popular Culture

Thanks for your consideration and support.