



THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Committee: Academic Affairs Committee
(AAC)

Principal Sponsors: Senator Gao (Chair, AAC), Senator Oh (Secretary), Senator Philips, Senator Rosmarin, Senator Dirkers, Senator Palmer, Senator Adkins, Senator Elarabi, Senator Riccio, Woohee Kim

Bill No:

Co-Sponsors: Sentaor Lundt, Senator Becker

A RESOLUTION TO DIVERSIFY THE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION OF CORE 151: LEGACIES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Whereas, the members of the Colgate Student Government Association Senate (“the Senate”) are elected by their peers and tasked with representing the grievances and concerns of the Colgate student body;

Whereas, the Senate recognizes the cultural and intellectual diversity of the Colgate student population, and its importance to the good of the institution;

Whereas, the Senate recognizes the need for Colgate to preserve and promote the aforementioned diversity of its student population;

Whereas, this need is expressed in the “Thirteen Goals of a Colgate Education” (as enabling students to “see themselves honestly and critically within a global and historical perspective”) and in the Colgate University Mission Statement (as the commitment to “Educate leaders who will and must come from all societal groups... to educate students to virtue and [encouraging] them to respond openly and sensitively to others who are different from themselves”);

Whereas, these needs and objectives are achieved through the liberal arts experience at Colgate, and the mandatory Core Curriculum is a fundamental and universal part of this experience;

Whereas, the Senate believes that certain aspects of the Core Curriculum, including, but not necessarily limited to, CORE 151: Legacies of the Ancient World (“Core Legacies”), are antithetical to Colgate’s diversity commitments by promoting certain dominant cultural narratives and marginalizing others;

Whereas, the Senate believes that Core Legacies, as a course focusing on “ancient texts... that articulate perennial issues”, ought to be uniquely most able to offer exposure to a variety of texts and voices from a wide range of traditions;

Whereas, the Senate believes that, notwithstanding its potential, Core Legacies, in its current state, systematically excludes many voices and narratives with its mandated “common curriculum” of Mediterranean texts and consequent emphasis on Western intellectual traditions;

Whereas, the Senate believes that heretofore attempts to integrate non-Western texts into Core Legacies have largely been ineffective because currently the majority of Core Legacies instructors come from Western traditions and lack familiarity with non-Western traditions and texts;

Whereas, the Senate recognizes and sympathizes with the concerns and grievances of many students, including many students from minority backgrounds, who have felt alienated and marginalized by the dominance of Western narratives in Core Legacies, and who are consequently unengaged with the course and its texts;

Whereas, the Senate recognizes the broad conceptual benefits of Core Legacies and the Core Curriculum as a whole, and believes that the structure of Core Legacies can be revised to uphold Colgate’s diversity commitments and offer a more engaging course for all students;

Whereas; the Senate recognizes the critical importance of addressing these issues ahead of the upcoming 2019 Core Revision;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLED:

- 1 **Section One**: The Senate strongly urges the Academic Affairs Board, the Curriculum
- 2 Committee, the Core Curriculum Steering Committee and the Division of University
- 3 Studies to make the diversification of Core Legacies, and of the Core Curriculum in
- 4 general, a priority for the 2019 Core Revision.
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- 6 **Section Two**: In particular, we recommend either 1) modifying the mandated “common
- 7 curriculum” of Core Legacies to incorporate a broader range of texts and intellectual
- 8 traditions, or 2) removing the “common curriculum” altogether to afford a more diverse
- 9 pool of instructors greater freedom to choose wider array of texts.
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- 11 **Section Three**: Furthermore, we recommend steps be taken to assemble a more diverse
- 12 group of instructors for Core Legacies, to ensure that a wider range of disciplines,

14 intellectual traditions, and cultural narratives are represented in the course with sufficient
15 depth and understanding.

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17 **Section Four:** The Senate reaffirms its commitment to the continuing efforts to make
18 Colgate a more diverse institution and further urges the Faculty and Administration to
19 continue to diversify the educational experience and intellectual discourses on campus.

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21 **Section Five:** The Senate implores that upon its passage by a simple majority of the
22 Senators this document be presented to the Dean of the College, the Dean of the Faculty,
23 the Director of the Division of University Studies, the Curriculum Committee, and the
24 Academic Affairs Board.

President, Student Government Association