



**Richard Harrison**  
Sophomore

"I feel that women should be allowed to have implants if they want to. In order for a woman to feel good about herself, she must first be happy with her appearance."

### Talk of ECSU:

*Do you believe that women should be able to have breast implants, even with the risks that may be involved?*



**Jessica Burden**  
Senior

"I support a woman making her own decision. Just a circumstances vary, so do women; therefore, I feel to each her own."

**Kelsha Wilson**  
Sophomore

"I feel that if a woman is healthy and does not need to have a breast implant then she should not have the surgical procedure due to the fact that it may cause health problems in the future."



**Karen Kavanaugh**  
Senior

"Yes, I believe in implants for breast cancer patients if they are told of the risks that may be involved. I was told that there is a new kind of implant that is less risky as the silicone implant. But once they weigh what the consequences 'might be' and decide to go in that direction, I would back them 100%."



### FORUM

# Should African Studies be required at ECSU?

By Tarick Scott

I am writing to address the issue of the importance of the mandation of an African history course at ECSU. The significance of mandating an African History course at a "black college," is as relevant as a family giving their child a first and last name. A person's first name identifies who that person is and their last name emphasizes where they came from. Normal loving and caring parents wouldn't question giving their child a name; it's automatic. So why is our ECSU family questioning mandating our African historical name?

Some members of the family, such as Dr. Leon White, disagree with mandating an African history course, because to force students to take an African history course is, "contradictory to the efforts of the many black people who once had to sneak and learn to read by candlelight," according to Dr. White. This is a true statement I believe, but then I would like to pose this question to Dr. White and others who feel the same way. "What then is the solution to the problem of our student's lack of interest in their history if not mandating it?"

Another administrator points out that there are "black studies" courses already offered as an elective at ECSU and the enrollment in such courses is poor. Lack

of interest may be one of the reasons why student enrollment is poor, but there are also other factors, such as the courses are only offered every other semester, they are offered at times that conflict with core curriculum courses, and advisors usually will direct students to take courses dealing with their major as opposed to an African history course.

An article in *The Daily Advance* addressing the issue on mandating African history at ECSU argued that mandating African history would be biased to other cultures. The descendants of Africa in America and around the world have been through and are still going through a holocaust. We are robbed of our religion, culture, language, and our names. When the physical slavery ended these things were not given back to the African. This leaves the descendants of Africa today in a mental slavery where they are blind, deaf, and dumb to who they are and where they came from.

Just about every so called nationality in America speaks their native tongue and practices beliefs from their homeland if they so chose. The African descendants in America do not have this option. We only know the language and rituals of our former slave masters. You can not expect an African American parent to teach his or her child the ways of the

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By J. Gary Brinn

The problem of mandating African-American Studies at ECSU is a complicated one. The simple logistical problems in creating a new multi-disciplinary course and fitting it into an already packed general education curriculum are enormous. Even more difficult are the philosophical issues that must first be addressed.

The most important issue is that of our identity. Some assert that ECSU is a "black college." Others claim it as a "regional university." It seems clear that we are in many ways both of these things. We must never forget that ECSU provided educational opportunities to an African-American population that would not otherwise have had them.

Our students have fought long and hard in the fight for civil rights. But ECSU is a state institution. Its mission is to serve all citizens of North Carolina, and especially those of the Northeastern region of our state. The subsidized education currently provided to residents of other states is secondary to the service of our taxpayers. The Northeast needs a regional university. ECU is too far away from us, and too close to Raleigh. If we are ever going to change the perception of our area as the "backwater" of North Carolina, education is an essential ingredient. In the

end, those who purchase a product define its use. The purchasers of ECSU's product are North Carolina taxpayers.

A second issue is that of exclusion. African culture is not the only one underrepresented in our study of the humanities. Hispanics, with their Iberian legacy, have greatly influenced life in America. The Indigenous Peoples of North America were slaughtered, yet we celebrate the "great explorer" whose first vision of them was as potential slaves. Americans of oriental descent bring with them a rich heritage of spirituality and community. Even within the European-American community we can see that Irish history is suppressed to allow the English to practice revisionist justification of their brutal colonialistic practices. How can we advocate anything that calls for a continuation of exclusion, even if it is an exclusion favoring a group normally excluded itself? Any proposal to change the Euro-centric orientation of our education must be all inclusive, addressing such issues as our patriarchal bias and our Christocentrism.

The methods used in attaining the goal of an African-American Studies program are in and of themselves questionable. Inflaming passions has its time and its place. This is not one of them. Among the "documents" being circulated in support

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