WHEREAS, Academic program review procedures for baccalaureate and graduate programs were first implemented in 1992 along with the formation of an Academic Senate Program Review and Improvement Committee; and

WHEREAS, Procedures for adding and selecting internal reviewers (Cal Poly faculty members outside the program who are “knowledgeable in the discipline/field of the program under review”) and external reviewers (individuals from other educational institutions) to academic program review were drafted and approved in 1996; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, after extensive study of academic program review practices nationwide, a new process for academic program review was proposed for Cal Poly by the Task Force on Institutional Accountability and Learning Assessment; and

WHEREAS, The 2000 academic program review process—which eliminated the Academic Senate Program Review and Improvement Committee—was approved by the Academic Senate on November 21, 2000 as “Resolution on Academic Program Review,” resolution number AS-552-00; and

WHEREAS, The 2000 academic program review process calls for the Academic Senate Executive Committee to be the final approving body for the program’s internal reviewers; and

WHEREAS, A Kaizen (“continuous improvement”) pilot project reviewed the current academic program review process in early 2010 and recommended “removing Senate [Executive Committee] approval” from the process in order to remove steps that resulted in redundant approval since the internal reviewer nominations are already “selected and vetted by the program faculty and endorsed by the college deans and the vice provost”; and

WHEREAS, Waiting for Academic Senate Executive Committee approval often delays the appointment of the internal reviewer(s) and causes the academic program review process to run behind schedule; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate Executive Committee be removed as the final approving body in the appointment of internal reviewers for academic program review; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Programs Office provide annual summaries to the Academic Senate on the findings of academic programs that underwent academic program review in that year, including a list of internal reviewers as part of the report.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: September 21 2010
Revised: October 19 2010
This memo acknowledges receipt and approval of the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.