Adopted: February 15, 2000

ACADEMIC SENATE
Of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA

AS-534-00/CC
RESOLUTION ON
MANDATING COMMUNITY SERVICE
(In response to Governor Davis' proposal to make community service a graduation requirement for all students)

WHEREAS, Cal Poly's Academic Senate acknowledges with pride the contributions of the more than 3000 students annually engaged in community service and service learning projects at Cal Poly and commends their work to the attention of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, A service ethic is better fostered by providing incentives and opportunities than by mandating service; and

WHEREAS, Mandating service may actually thwart the creation of the service ethic it is intended to instill; and

WHEREAS, It is unfair to mandate additional monetary, travel, and time burdens on students, particularly economically disadvantaged students, who are already overburdened; and

WHEREAS, A mandate imposed on the students to perform community service is also a mandate imposed on community agencies and it is unfair and potentially destructive to community relations to impose this mandate on community agencies without prior consultation and consent; and

WHEREAS, The primary mission of the California State University is to serve the people of California through educating its students; and

WHEREAS, The educational value of community service can be greatly enhanced through the pedagogy of service learning, an experiential learning methodology that integrates community service with academic study through explicitly linking community service assignments with specific topics of course study; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That Cal Poly's Academic Senate oppose the mandating of community service as a graduation requirement for Cal Poly students; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Cal Poly's Academic Senate urge the Governor to lend his support to service learning programs that integrate community service and academic study; and be it further
RESOLVED: That Cal Poly's Academic Senate support the Provost's formation of an ad hoc committee to consider ways of enhancing Cal Poly's current community service and learning programs.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
Date: December 10, 1999
Revised: February 1, 2000
Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-534-00/CC
Resolution on Mandating Community Service (In response to Governor Davis’ proposal to make community service a graduation requirement for all students)

I am pleased to approve this Resolution which is in response to Governor Davis' proposal to make community service a graduation requirement for all students.

As this Resolution acknowledges, Provost Zingg has appointed an ad hoc committee to examine Cal Poly's pursuit of community service and service learning initiatives and activities. In addition, he has also convened a small group of campus leaders to explore the concept of creating an "Engaged University" model for Cal Poly. This effort also has community service and service learning dimensions to it.

Please extend my gratitude to the members of the Academic Senate and the Curriculum Committee for their acknowledgement of the extensive service commitments in which our students are already engaged and the Academic Senate's encouragement that these activities continue to increase.