December 9, 2011

From: Graham Archer Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee

To: Cal Poly Academic Senate

Re: Committee Report, Fall Quarter, 2011

During the fall quarter 2011 the Faculty Affairs Committee finalized its resolution on shared governance. The draft resolution was passed on to the Academic Senate Executive Committee and is attached to this report. Also attached are the two primary reference documents the committee relied upon for the resolution: The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) “Statement on Governance of Colleges and Universities” 1990; and Academic Senate California State University (ASCSU) “Shared Governance Reconsidered: Improving Decision-Making in the California State University” 2001. The committee feels that these documents characterize the best practices of shared governance.

Committee members:

Archer, Graham (CH) Arce CAED
Brar, Navjit Library PCS
Brown, D. Ken Philos CLA
Willmar, Landa Student ASI
Liddicoat, Al AcadPersl Admin
Lund, Ulric Stats CSM
Olsen, Eric IndTech OCOB
James, Jennifer Agribus CAFES
Wu, Xi MechEngr CENG
WHEREAS, One of the key tenets of quality higher education is shared governance in which responsibility for the running of the university is shared by faculty, administrators, and trustees; and

WHEREAS, Cal Poly has a long history of participation in shared governance; and

WHEREAS, The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) "Statement on Governance of Colleges and Universities" 1990 and Academic Senate California State University (ASCSU) "Shared Governance Reconsidered: Improving Decision-Making in the California State University" 2001 characterize the best practices of shared governance; and

WHEREAS, The faculty have an interest in articulating what shared governance means at Cal Poly; therefore be it

RESOLVED: The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process; and be it further

RESOLVED: On these matters the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board or delegated by it to the president should be exercised adversely only in exceptional circumstances, and for reasons communicated to the faculty; and be it further

RESOLVED: It is desirable that the faculty should, following such communication, have opportunity for further consideration and further transmittal of its views to the president; and be it further

RESOLVED: Budgets, personnel limitations, the time element, and the policies of other groups, bodies, and agencies having jurisdiction over the institution may set limits to realization of faculty advice; and be it further

RESOLVED: The faculty should strive to apply the model of shared governance detailed in Appendix C of the ASCSU report; and be it further

RESOLVED: The Academic Senate set up a task force to revise the Constitution of the Faculty to include shared governance in the definition of the functions of the Academic Senate.

Proposed by:

Date: