RESOLUTION ON COURSES WITH CONDENSED TIME SCHEDULES FOR QUARTER-TO-SEMESTER CONVERSION

Impact on Existing Policy: Supersedes and updates AS-838-17; refers to but does not supersede or modify AS-922-21

WHEREAS, The Chancellor’s Office has mandated that Cal Poly convert to semesters by fall of 2026; and

WHEREAS, Conversion to semesters requires that all academic policies be reviewed and revised as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Courses are being re-packaged in interesting ways during time periods outside of the traditional quarter or semester term, such as, but not limited to, international studies classes, summer experiences, the four-week summer institute, and quarter plus; and

WHEREAS, Coded Memorandum AA-2011-14 from the Chancellor’s Office defines a credit hour as "the amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than: one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time"; and

WHEREAS, AS-922-21 further describes Cal Poly’s credit hour policy and procedures for reviewing and ensuring compliance with the credit hour definition; and

WHEREAS: The WSCUC definition of a credit hour reads in part that a credit-hour “approximates not less than: a. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work
“each week”, while CSU and Cal Poly policy understands a credit hour to be a 50-minute (not 60-minute) period, and

WHEREAS, AS-838-17 requires that any quarter-system course or group of courses that in its new condensed format averages less than three days per unit must be approved by the appropriate College Curriculum Committee(s) and the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee at least 60 days before they are offered in a compressed time scale; and

WHEREAS, AS-838-17 provides as a reason for this policy that it may prove difficult to attain the approved Course Learning Objectives if students are expected to work more than 10 hours in any given day; and

WHEREAS, A one-unit course during a 15-week semester translates to 45 total credit hours (37.5 actual hours) of student work; therefore be it

RESOLVED: any semester-system course or group of courses that in its new condensed format averages less than 4 days (including weekends) per unit must be approved by the appropriate College Curriculum Committee(s) and the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee at least 60 days before they are offered in a compressed time scale.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
Date: April 4, 2023

(1) Describe how this resolution impacts existing policy on educational matters that affect the faculty. Examples include curricula, academic personnel policies, and academic standards.
(2) Indicate if this resolution supersedes or rescinds current resolutions.
(3) If there is no impact on existing policy, please indicate NONE.