

ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

AS-68-79/IC
May 22, 1979

RESOLUTION REGARDING CHALLENGE EXAMS

- WHEREAS, The administration of challenge exams places a heavy additional burden on departments and their faculty members, and
- WHEREAS, Faculty and departments are currently receiving no compensation for administering challenge exams, and
- WHEREAS, Because of budget cutbacks and "salary savings," the workload of faculty members is increasing drastically, and
- WHEREAS, Present policy facilitates misuses of the challenge exam privilege by students attempting to bypass conventional curricula; particularly in challenging prerequisites subsequent to taking the more advanced courses to which they apply, and
- WHEREAS, Letter grades are often impossible to assign fairly in relation to grades awarded to students taking the entire course, therefore be it
- RESOLVED: (a) That each department shall formulate a definitive policy on what constitutes sufficient background for challenging the various courses based on the catalog statement that "a regularly enrolled student may be permitted to obtain credit by examination for courses in subject matter fields in which he is especially qualified through previous education or experience and for which credit has not otherwise been given."
- (b) That it is not the intent of a challenge exam to make up for prerequisites for more advanced courses taken without them.
- (c) That the exam grade may be credit-no credit or a letter grade at the discretion of the department.
- (d) That the department head, or an administrator appointed by him, shall approve the petition to take the exam and shall appoint the instructor who is to administer it.
- (e) That each department shall formulate a policy for the type of exam to be administered for each course category. The policy shall also include the time-frame within the quarter during which the exam must be taken.

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(f) That each department, and the instructor administrating the exam, shall be credited with one sixth of the weighted teaching units usually allowed for the course for each challenge exam given.

(g) That the catalog be amended to reflect the above proposals.