

Adopted: March 7, 1989

ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California

Background statement: On December 4, 1979, the Academic Senate approved a resolution which endorsed the concept of minor fields of study at the University. Since that time, no fewer than nineteen minors have been instituted at Cal Poly. Currently, there is one minor under consideration by the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee and there are indications that as many as ten new minors may be in the proposal stage for the coming catalog cycle. The number of existing minors combined with the possible new minor proposals have raised the concerns of both the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee and Executive Committee.

In consultation with the Offices of Academic Affairs and Institutional Studies, we have begun to study the subject of minors and offer this resolution in an attempt to organize a university-wide self-study of the existing policies concerning minors and to answer some questions which we do not believe have been addressed in the establishment or evaluation of minors.

AS-312-89/CC

**RESOLUTION ON
ACADEMIC MINORS**

- WHEREAS, The number of minors within the university curriculum has grown from none to nineteen in less than ten years; and
- WHEREAS, As many as ten new minors are being proposed for consideration in the next catalog; and
- WHEREAS, There is no standardized procedure to determine the number of students currently enrolled in minors; and
- WHEREAS, There is no readily available data as to how many students have enrolled in minors in the past and this information has only been included on their transcripts upon graduation; and
- WHEREAS, Minors do not have to be declared until a student files for graduation; and
- WHEREAS, The average course load per quarter for a student currently enrolled at the University is 13.5 units, with a minimum of 185 units--and most majors having 198 units--required for a degree program; and
- WHEREAS, Many undergraduate degree programs have minimal (9) or less than minimal units available for completion of concentrations or free electives; and
- WHEREAS, The average length of enrollment at Cal Poly is between five and six years; and

WHEREAS, Academic Senate resolution AS -182-85 stated in its RESOLVED clause

That the Academic Senate ask the President of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, to carefully consider the merits and benefits of the minors proposed for the 1986-88 catalog and approve them, providing an opportunity to see what the student demand for minors is and to assess the benefits or problems that may arise from having more minors available to the students.

No such assessment has been carried out; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee undertake a study of existing academic minors and that the scope of this study should include such items as the purposes of individual programs as well as the clientele, the number of minors awarded in each program, the effects of minors on the length of study programs, the effects on resources, the impact on admissions, the relationships of General Education and Breadth requirements and minors, the effects of minors on majors and concentrations, as well as the procedures for declaring and monitoring a minor; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this study be completed by the end of Winter Quarter 1990 with findings and recommendations made to the Academic Senate at that time; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee be allowed to make a recommendation to the Academic Senate on the Women's Studies minor, which was submitted during the 1987-88 academic year and is currently under consideration by the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee.

Proposed By:
Academic Senate
Curriculum Committee
February 2, 1989
Revised February 23, 1989
(Approved as revised 9/0/2
with all members present)

Memorandum

RECEIVED

CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

APR 17 1989

To : Charles T. Andrews, Chair
Academic Senate

Academic Senate

Date : April 12, 1989

File No.:

Copies : M. Wilson
W. Rife

From : 
Warren J. Baker
President

Subject: ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION
ON MINORS (AS-312-89/CC)

This will acknowledge your memo of March 15 with which you transmitted the subject resolution adopted by the Academic Senate on March 7. I appreciate very much the background information which you provided with regard to the discussions and the very close vote of the Academic Senate on this issue. I have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with Vice President for Academic Affairs Malcolm Wilson. As a result of our discussions, I am approving the resolution as adopted by the Academic Senate.