

Adopted: March 7, 1989

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

Background statement: The Graduate Studies Committee studied the types of courses allowed in the plan of study for advanced degrees at Cal Poly during the 1986-87 academic year. In December 1986, it unanimously adopted the following motion:

By Fall 1988, all courses acceptable in a master's degree program will be at the 400 level or above. Until that time, 300 level courses will be acceptable only with the approval of the graduate adviser, the department, the school dean, and the Graduate Studies Office. Such exceptions will be considered case by case.

The Academic Senate Curriculum Committee has considered the motion and the current situations which exist in various graduate programs and endorses the fact that a graduate program should be designed for advanced study. However, we do realize that some graduate programs may have a number of qualified students with diverse backgrounds applying for graduate study and that these students may be without certain types of experiences necessary for success in those programs. It is in this context that we propose the following resolution.

AS-313-89/CC

**RESOLUTION ON
GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

- WHEREAS, The Graduate Studies Committee in 1986 recommended limiting credit towards a graduate degree to courses at the 400 level and above; and
- WHEREAS, A minimum of 45 quarter units are necessary for a graduate degree; and
- WHEREAS, In accordance with Title 5, a minimum of 50 percent of all units are required for the master's degree at the 500 level; and
- WHEREAS, Most graduate programs at Cal Poly already specify in their curricula that only 400- and 500-level courses may be included in the graduate plan of study; and
- WHEREAS, 300-level courses are defined in the University catalog as being
primarily for advanced undergraduate students, generally
bearing no graduate degree credit (1988-90 catalog, p. 390);
and
- WHEREAS, The Academic Senate Curriculum Committee agrees with the motion of the Graduate Studies Committee; therefore, be it

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate concur with the motion of the Graduate Studies Committee such that it will be University policy that only 400- and 500-level courses be allowed in the 45 units of an approved graduate plan of study; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That in those programs where specific 300-level courses may be essential for a student's success in that program, that the student may be conditionally accepted to the program contingent upon completing those 300-level courses and if s/he fulfills all other requirements for acceptance to the advanced degree program, but that those 300-level courses will not constitute any part of the approved 45 units in the plan of graduate study; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That when more than 45 units are required for the degree, in unusual circumstances, upon written justification, with the approval of the school dean and the University Director of Graduate Studies, limited courses may be substituted at the nongraduate level for those required beyond the base 45 units; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That this plan be fully implemented by Fall 1989; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That students currently in master's degree programs who have been given formal approval before June 1989 to include 300-level courses in their graduate plans of study will have those agreements honored but that students entering graduate programs after June 1989 must complete study plans consistent with the new requirement.

Proposed By:
Academic Senate
Curriculum Committee
February 2, 1989

Vote: 7-0-0 (SAED and SENG
not represented)

Memorandum

RECEIVED

MAR 31 1989

CAL POLY
SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

To : Charles T. Andrews, Chair
Academic Senate

Academic Senate

Date : March 28, 1989

File No.:

Copies : Malcolm Wilson
Robert Lucas

From : 
Warren J. Baker
President

Subject: ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION ON
GRADUATE PROGRAMS (AS-313-89/CC)

I want to acknowledge your memo of March 16 with which you transmitted the subject resolution dealing with the issue of 300-level courses for Graduate Programs. I had an opportunity to review the contents of the resolution with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Malcolm Wilson, and the Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies, Research and Faculty Development, Robert Lucas, and am pleased to approve the basic content and policy enunciated in the Academic Senate resolution.

In order for the substance of the resolution to be clear and to simplify the implementation of the resolution, I am attaching a modification of the wording of the last resolved clause which does not change the sense of the resolution, but does clarify that implementation. I trust that the Academic Senate will find this modification acceptable.

Attachment

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate concur with the motion of the Graduate Studies Committee such that it will be University policy that only 400- and 500-level courses be allowed in the 45 units of an approved graduate plan of study; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That in those programs where specific 300-level courses may be essential for a student's success in that program, that the student may be conditionally accepted to the program contingent upon completing those 300-level courses and if s/he fulfills all other requirements for acceptance to the advanced degree program, but that those 300-level courses will not constitute any part of the approved 45 units in the plan of graduate study; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That when more than 45 units are required for the degree, in unusual circumstances, upon written justification, with the approval of the school dean and the University-Director-of Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies, Research, and Faculty Development, limited courses may be substituted at the non-graduate level for those required beyond the base 45 units; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That this plan be fully implemented by Fall 1989; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That students currently enrolled in master's degree programs who whose formal study plans were have-been-given-formal approved before June 30, 1989 to-include with 300-level courses in-their graduate-plans-of-study will have those agreements honored, but-that Students entering-graduate programs-after-June-filing their formal study plans after June 30, 1989 must complete study plans consistent with the new requirement.