

Adopted: June 2, 1998

ACADEMIC SENATE
Of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA

AS-502-98/CC
RESOLUTION ON
PROGRAM EFFICIENCY AND FLEXIBILITY

- WHEREAS, Programs have the responsibility to ensure that all units required for the degree are a necessary part of the degree; and
- WHEREAS, Programs should increase flexibility within the major where this can be done without compromising the quality of the program; and
- WHEREAS, Programs should facilitate articulation for community-college transfer students where this can be done without compromising the quality of the program; and
- WHEREAS, The move to four-unit courses and the implementation of a new General Education program make this an opportune time for programs to review their curricula; and
- WHEREAS, Programs that can demonstrate to the Chancellor, the CSU Trustees, and the California legislature that they have engaged in "good housekeeping" will thereby have a stronger justification for requiring the unit totals and particular courses they do require; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED: That all programs undertake a self-review to determine if the units they require are a necessary part of the degree; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the self-review include an examination of the possibility of increasing the number of free electives allowed within the program; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the self-review consider whether the elimination of mode-and-level regulations now make it possible to offer certain upper-division courses at the lower-division level; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That each program's self-review be submitted as a report to the Curriculum Committee and the Program Review and Improvement Committee. The role of this committee is to be advisory only, working with programs to help them achieve efficiency and flexibility in ways that best suit the individual program. Any program that has already done a recent self-review (for example, for an accrediting body) could submit a summary of that review focused on the issues of program efficiency and flexibility.

Proposed by: The Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
Date: May 19, 1998

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SD
LA

State of California
Memorandum

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CALPOLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

Academic Senate

To: Myron Hood
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: September 18, 1998

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: Paul J. Zingg
Harvey Greenwald

Subject: AS-502-98/CC-Resolution on Program Efficiency and Flexibility

I am pleased to approve the above Resolution of the Academic Senate. This resolution directs all programs to undertake a review to determine if the units they require to complete a degree are appropriate and necessary. I am particularly pleased that the Resolution calls for an examination of the number of free electives allowed within the program. In this regard, the Resolution underscores a recommendation that the Program Review Committee has made consistently for several years. I recognize that although some progress has been made in reducing the number of units required in certain programs, much more could be accomplished. As the Program Review Committee has emphasized, the limited number of free electives allowed within many programs continues to be problematic.

Chancellor Reed and the CSU Board of Trustees have expressed concern about the number of units required to complete campus degree programs. The review required in Resolution AS-502-98/CC will be essential if Cal Poly is to deal effectively with the concerns raised by the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees. Where possible, programs should reduce the number of units required to complete a degree. Where reduction of units is deemed not feasible or appropriate, programs will need to have clear and compelling arguments supporting the number of units required to complete a degree in their respective programs.

I appreciate the work accomplished by the Curriculum Committee to initiate this important process within our academic degree programs.