

Adopted: February 15,2000

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

AS-534-00/CC
RESOLUTION ON
MANDATING COMMUNITY SERVICE
(In response to Governor Davis' proposal to make community
service a graduation requirement for all students)

- 1 WHEREAS, Cal Poly's Academic Senate acknowledges with pride the contributions of the more than
2 3000 students annually engaged in community service and service learning projects at Cal
3 Poly and commends their work to the attention of the Governor; and
4
- 5 WHEREAS, A service ethic is better fostered by providing incentives and opportunities than by
6 mandating service; and
7
- 8 WHEREAS, Mandating service may actually thwart the creation of the service ethic it is intended to
9 instill; and
10
- 11 WHEREAS, It is unfair to mandate additional monetary, travel, and time burdens on students,
12 particularly economically disadvantaged students, who are already overburdened; and
13
- 14 WHEREAS, A mandate imposed on the students to perform community service is also a mandate
15 imposed on community agencies and it is unfair and potentially destructive to community
16 relations to impose this mandate on community agencies without prior consultation and
17 consent; and
18
- 19 WHEREAS, The primary mission of the California State University is to serve the people of California
20 through educating its students; and
21
- 22 WHEREAS, The educational value of community service can be greatly enhanced through the
23 pedagogy of service learning, an experiential learning methodology that integrates
24 community service with academic study through explicitly linking community service
25 assignments with specific topics of course study; therefore, be it
26
- 27 RESOLVED: That Cal Poly's Academic Senate oppose the mandating of community service as a
28 graduation requirement for Cal Poly students; and be it further
29
- 30 RESOLVED: That Cal Poly's Academic Senate urge the Governor to lend his support to service
31 learning programs that integrate community service and academic study; and be it further

32 RESOLVED: That Cal Poly's Academic Senate support the Provost's formation of an ad hoc
33 committee to consider ways of enhancing Cal Poly's current community service
34 and learning programs.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
Date: December 10, 1999
Revised: February 1, 2000

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CAL POLY

State of California


Memorandum

ACADEMIC SENATE

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

To: Myron Hood
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: March 24, 2000

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: Paul I. Zingg
David Conn

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-534-00/CC
Resolution on Mandating Community Service (In response to Governor Davis' proposal to
make community service a graduation requirement for all students)

I am pleased to approve this Resolution which is in response to Governor Davis' proposal to make community service a graduation requirement for all students.

As this Resolution acknowledges, Provost Zingg has appointed an ad hoc committee to examine Cal Poly's pursuit of community service and service learning initiatives and activities. In addition, he has also convened a small group of campus leaders to explore the concept of creating an "Engaged University" model for Cal Poly. This effort also has community service and service learning dimensions to it.

Please extend my gratitude to the members of the Academic Senate and the Curriculum Committee for their acknowledgement of the extensive service commitments in which our students are already engaged and the Academic Senate's encouragement that these activities continue to increase.