WHEREAS, Regular contact and exchange of ideas among University employees helps to create a sense of community; and

WHEREAS, The faculty and staff of Cal Poly do not have a designated facility for their professional and social use; and

WHEREAS, The Cal Poly Master Plan does not designate a facility specifically for a Faculty/Staff Club and Conference Center; and

WHEREAS, President and Mrs. Baker have chosen an off-campus residence and will vacate his campus house soon; and

WHEREAS, The University intends to maintain the residence in the President’s absence; and

WHEREAS, Cal Poly is an Associate Member of the Association of Faculty Clubs International which can assist in the planning for a Faculty/Staff Club and Conference Center; and

WHEREAS, The successful operation of a Faculty/Staff Club generally requires faculty to provide support through monthly dues; and

WHEREAS, President Baker has voiced his support for a Faculty/Staff Club and Conference Center on campus; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the President’s Office, the Academic Senate Ad Hoc Faculty Club and Conference Center Committee, and the Cal Poly Foundation be asked to develop a business plan which includes an estimate of monthly dues necessary to develop and to operate the President’s on-campus residence as a temporary faculty/staff club, and that the business plan be approved by the Academic Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED: That if the President’s residence not be designated for use as a Faculty/Staff club and/or Conference Center that the Academic Senate be consulted on any other use; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a permanent on-campus Faculty/Staff Club and Conference Center be integrated into the Cal Poly Master Plan.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Faculty Affairs Committee
Date: April 29, 2004
Revised: May 11, 2004
Revised: June 1, 2004
I am pleased to acknowledge and respond to this Academic Senate resolution calling upon the University to take additional steps toward development of a Faculty/Staff Club.

The Academic Senate resolution regarding a Faculty/Staff Club has two major components: business plan and location.

Development of a business plan is clearly a critical step because any such facility or operation would have to have the ability to support itself financially from the outset. Last summer, with my support, the Senate Ad Hoc Faculty Club and Conference Center Committee and the Cal Poly Foundation initiated preparation of the recommended business plan. This will need to encompass a number of components, including, but not limited to, the following: a needs assessment and program statement regarding the activities that would be supported in a Faculty/Staff Club; space requirements for these activities; operating budget requirements (staffing, supplies, overhead, etc.) and revenue sources, including, potentially, a dues structure.

The resolution also suggests as a potential temporary location for a Faculty/Staff Club the president’s former on-campus residence. In addition, the resolution recognizes that a different location may be more appropriate in the long-term and calls for a permanent site to be designated.

It is important to note that there has been no interruption in use of the former President’s residence for university hosting and hospitality. It remains a critical and key campus venue for these purposes. While the facility may lend itself to phasing in of some program elements related to faculty/staff hosting and hospitality, its continuing and expanded use for hosting university ceremonies and award programs, campus receptions, small conferences, off-campus visitors and other official business is a significant limiting factor for dedicated use as a Faculty/Staff Club.

The resolution goes on to recommend identification of a permanent site for an integrated Faculty/Staff Club and conference center and incorporation of this joint-use facility in the Cal Poly Master Plan.
Planning for any such joint-use facility that would involve other potential users, such as Cal Poly's Continuing Education program and Alumni Relations, may require a separate study. Having said this, the campus Master Plan shows several sites which may be appropriate for conference facilities, depending on the programmatic needs and funding opportunities that might be available. Thus, conference facilities will be addressed in future master plan discussions.

As additional progress is made in assessment of feasibility, development of a business plan and evaluation of potential sites and venues for a Faculty/Staff Club, the Senate will be updated. For now, please express my appreciation to the Academic Senate members for sharing their observations and recommendations regarding these issues.