

Adopted: May 4 2010

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-711-10

**RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACADEMIC SENATE
CURRICULUM APPEALS COMMITTEE**

- 1 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate endorse the attached proposal for the establishment of
2 an Academic Senate Curriculum Appeals Committee; and be it
3
4 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate Curriculum Appeals Committee will report its decisions
5 back to the Academic Senate.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee and
2009-10 GE Task Force
Date: March 29 2010
Revised: April 5 2010
Revised: April 6 2010
Revised: April 13 2010
Revised: May 4 2010

Curriculum Proposal Appeals Process: Curriculum Appeals Committee

(May 4 2010)

The Academic Senate Curriculum Committee (ASCC) and the 2009-2010 General Education (GE) Task Force have identified a need to develop a new appeals process for handling disputes about curriculum proposals. In the Office of the Registrar Curriculum Handbook, under the heading "Academic Senate" in the "Curriculum Roles and Responsibilities" section, the current appeals process is described thus:

All catalog proposals, except new degree programs, appear on the Senate agenda by college as consent items. Senators are given three weeks notice of the consent items and are expected to review the summaries posted on the Office of the Registrar website. Issues, concerns, and questions regarding curriculum proposals are directed to the chair of the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee by one week before the Senate meeting. If the concern is strong enough, any senator may request an item be removed from the consent agenda no later than one week before the meeting. Items removed from the consent agenda will be placed on a first and second agenda cycle, with the first reading being the meeting of the consent agenda. The chair of the Curriculum Committee will invite representatives from the concerned departments to be present at the meetings where their proposals will be discussed. Items not removed from the consent agenda are considered approved on the meeting date of the consent agenda. (<http://www.ess.calpoly.edu/records/curric-handbook/Curric-roles-respons.html#ASCC>)

The ASCC and the GE Task Force believe that when there are disputes about curriculum proposals that cannot be resolved prior to Academic Senate meetings, there should be debate on the Senate floor concerning the disputed curriculum proposals. However, the ASCC and GE Task Force also believe that it is unsatisfactory to place curriculum proposals pulled from the consent agenda on a first and second agenda cycle. Placing them on a first and second agenda cycle subjects a curriculum proposal that has been vetted at several levels, from the department all the way to Academic Senate committee(s), to an up or down vote on the Academic Senate floor. The curriculum committees at all levels spend considerable time developing an understanding of proposed curriculum in all of its details. The committees are obligated to grasp the ramifications and value of approving proposed curriculum within any major or minor program that may be affected by it. Acquiring such knowledge of individual curriculum proposals in the first and second reading cycle would be extremely time consuming and hence, unlikely.

Instead of placing pulled curriculum proposals on the first and second agenda cycle, the ASCC and GE Task Force call for the establishment of a new committee whose membership is limited to three in total, called the "Academic Senate Curriculum Appeals Committee" (ASCAC). The ASCAC is charged with adjudicating in a timely manner over curriculum proposals pulled from the consent agenda. In fulfilling its charge, the ASCAC would be required to understand the nature of disputes concerning pulled curriculum proposals. The ASCAC would approve, disapprove, or return a curriculum proposal to committee (returned to committee at any level, as deemed appropriate).

Members on the ASCAC will need to be knowledgeable about the curriculum as a whole so that they are nimble enough to understand disputed curriculum proposals in the context of major and minor affected programs. Consequently, membership is limited to faculty with previously demonstrated overview curricular knowledge. Eligible faculty for membership will be appointed by the Academic Senate

Executive Committee for one year terms or partial year terms.* Eligible faculty include at least two members from “List 1” and at least one member from “List 2”:

List 1:

- Former Academic Senate Chairs
- Former Academic Senate Curriculum Committee Chairs who served for a minimum of two catalog cycles
- Former members of the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee who served for a minimum of two catalog cycles

List 2:

- Former GE Directors/Chairs who served for a minimum of two catalog cycles
- Former GE Committee/Board members who served for a minimum of two catalog cycles**

Note that no member of the ASCAC can be actively serving in any of the capacities listed in “List 1” and “List 2” at the same time s/he is serving on the ASCAC.

Should the Academic Senate agree to the establishment of the Academic Senate Curriculum Appeals Committee, the description of the proposed curriculum proposal appeals process in the Curriculum Handbook, under the heading “Academic Senate” in the “Curriculum Roles and Responsibilities” section, would read:

All curriculum proposals, except new degree programs, appear on the Academic Senate agenda by college as consent items. Senators are given three weeks notice of the consent items and are expected to review the summaries posted on the Office of the Registrar website. Issues, concerns, and questions regarding curriculum proposals are directed to the chair of the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee by one week before the Senate meeting. If the concern is strong enough, any senator may request an item be removed from the consent agenda no later than one week before the meeting. Items removed from the consent agenda will be placed on the Senate agenda as discussion items. The Senate Chair (or designee) will invite representatives from the concerned departments and the Academic Senate Curriculum Appeals Committee to be present at the meetings where pulled proposals will be discussed. It is recommended that the Senate Chair allow the Academic Senate Curriculum Appeals Committee freedom to ask questions at will, without needing to be on the speakers list. Following discussion in the Senate, the Academic Senate Curriculum Appeals Committee will make the final decision to approve, disapprove, or return the items to committee (at any level) for further development. Items not removed from the consent agenda are considered approved on the meeting date of the consent agenda.

* Since at any given time there may not be enough full time faculty who are eligible to serve on the committee, FERPs who satisfy any of the categories on List 1 or List 2 are also eligible to serve on the ASCAC.

** This category is not intended to include members of GE area committees.

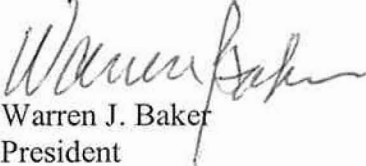
State of California
M e m o r a n d u m

CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

To: Rachel Fernflores
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: June 18, 2010

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: R. Koob, E. Smith,
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Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-711-10
Resolution on the Establishment of an Academic Senate Curriculum Appeals Committee

This memo formally acknowledges receipt of the above-referenced Academic Senate resolution.