WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Faculty of the California Polytechnic State University empowers the Academic Senate to “exercise all legislative and advisory powers on behalf of the General Faculty,” and that such “legislative powers shall include all educational matters that affect the General Faculty (e.g., curricula, academic personnel policies, and academic standards);”¹ and

WHEREAS, The responsibility of the faculty for the development of curriculum and instruction is a fundamental principle supported by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) (Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities)² and the Academic Senate of the CSU (ASCSU) (Collegiality in the California State University System, 1985)³ to name a few; and

WHEREAS, At times it has been necessary to reassert this principle, for example by the ASCSU (Reasserting Faculty Control of Curricula Regardless of Delivery Mode, AS-3081-12/FA/AA)⁴, and by the Cal Poly Academic Senate (Resolution on Shared Governance, AS-748-12)⁵; and

WHEREAS, Current campus procedures establish the workflow for proposing new curricula: the Office of the Registrar states that “Proposals for new courses are developed by faculty and submitted for approval through the Curriculum Management system,” (http://registrar.calpoly.edu/course-policies-guidelines#Propose%20a%20New%20), and Academic Senate Bylaws (VIII.I.2b) state that “[t]he Curriculum Committee evaluates curriculum proposals from departments and colleges;” and

WHEREAS, Faculty may welcome input or seek collaborative opportunities with anyone within the campus community, but the responsibility for the curriculum ultimately resides with the General Faculty; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the faculty reassert and reaffirm that, by virtue of the Constitution of the Faculty, development of curriculum and instruction are the purview of the General Faculty; and

RESOLVED: That all proposals for new courses or other changes to curricula be made through and sponsored by the curriculum committee of the appropriate academic department(s) and associated college(s).

Proposed by:  Glen Thorncroft, Senator, CENG  
Paul Rinzler, Senator, CLA  
Lauren Garner, Senator, CAFES  

Date:  December 5, 2016  
Revised:  April 19, 2017
Footnotes:
1 Constitution of the Faculty and the Bylaws of the Academic Senate, Article III, Section 2.

2 "When an educational goal has been established, it becomes the responsibility primarily of the faculty to determine the appropriate curriculum and procedures of student instruction." AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities

3 "Because the university's curriculum is of central concern to the faculty and because faculty have the primary responsibility in curricular decisions, it follows that faculty should have the major voice in academic policy decisions which closely affect the curriculum, access to the curriculum, or the quality of the curriculum." Collegiality in the California State University System, Academic Senate of the CSU (1985)

4 "RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) reassert that the quality of the curriculum for academic credit, including technology-mediated courses and online courses, remain the purview of the faculty individually and collectively..." Reasserting Faculty Control of Curricula Regardless of Delivery Mode, CSU Academic Senate, AS-3081-12/FA/AA

5 "RESOLVED: That the faculty affirm its primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and student educational processes..." Resolution on Shared Governance, Cal Poly Academic Senate Resolution AS-748-12
MEMORANDUM
Cal Poly | Office of the President

To: Dustin Stegner
Chair, Academic Senate

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President

Date: July 17, 2017

Copies: K. Enz Finken
M. Pedersen
A. Liddicoat
G. Thorncroft
P. Rinzler
L. Garner

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-835-17
Resolution on Proposing New Courses or Other Changes to Curricula

This memo acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled resolution. I agree that the majority voice
for curriculum approval is with the Academic Senate and the faculty. However, I believe it is also
beneficial to allow academic administrators with applicable academic qualifications to develop and
submit courses for approval through the appropriate processes. This would allow for innovation
and draw on academic administrators’ expertise to develop courses that support and enhance
student success as well as provide more diverse course offerings.

Please extend my thanks to the Academic Senate member for their attention to this matter.

RECEIVED
AUG - 1 2017
ACADEMIC SENATE

Phone: 805-756-6000 | presidentoffice@calpoly.edu