WHEREAS, Cal Poly has established the Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR) to comply with CSU Executive Order 665 (EO 665) which requires that “Certification of writing competence shall be made available to students as they enter the junior year” and that “Students should complete the requirement before the senior year”; and

WHEREAS, EO 665 further states, “Certification of graduation writing proficiency is an all-campus responsibility”; and

WHEREAS, In its most recent review of Cal Poly, WASC recommended the university have its undergraduate students “satisfy the GWR as juniors, i.e., as soon as possible after completing ninety units, so that they can receive additional writing instruction if necessary”; and

WHEREAS, Cal Poly’s Academic Senate adopted a Resolution on the Graduate Writing Requirement in October 2000 to “encourage students to attempt the GWR early in their junior year”; and

WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of the CSU adopted a similar resolution in January 2004 stating that “Each campus should develop a process that ensures students attempt the assessment in their junior year”; and

WHEREAS, Despite all of the above rhetoric, a GWR Task Force established by Cal Poly’s Academic Senate during the 2014–2015 academic year found that currently 84% of test-takers are seniors, approximately 100 of whom anxiously attempt to pass during their last week at Cal Poly; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force’s Report shows generally that current GWR campus practices meet neither the requirement of EO 665 nor the recommendation of our most recent WASC review nor the goals expressed in the Cal Poly and CSU Academic Senate resolutions concerning the timely completion of the GWR; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate accept the GWR Task Force’s Report, which addresses the current, unsatisfactory situation as well as the actions Cal Poly can take to correct it; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Writing & Rhetoric Center, the Office of the Registrar, and the English Department now begin implementation of the first five of the six action items listed in the Report’s recommendation; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the spirit of the third in the Task Force’s list of three additional recommendations also be implemented: “...programs/departments develop a concrete action plan so that their students take the GWR during junior year...”; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Writing & Rhetoric Center assist in the development of these action plans by the end of academic year 2015–2016 and serve as a contact for this effort and that the Writing & Rhetoric Center report to the Academic Senate in Spring 2016 on the progress of these efforts.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: September 30, 2015
Revised: November 30, 2015