

Special Procedures for the Senate R&PD Committee

Committee Description

The Senate Research and Professional Development Committee ("R&PD Committee") reviews and discusses activities and issues relevant to research and professional development at Cal Poly. Of particular interest is the balance of teaching activities with those that are of a more scholarly or professional nature (which may vary for different fields).

Objectives

- ensure that university-wide initiatives and activities address the relevance of research and professional development for the mission of Cal Poly as a whole
- foster a campus environment where faculty can effectively pursue research and professional development activities that are complementary to their teaching responsibilities
- identify areas of weakness or deficiencies in the campus environment that are related to research and professional development
- provide advice and guidance to university entities and individuals concerning initiatives, activities, policies, or decisions that may affect research and professional development at Cal Poly; in particular, this relates to (a) Kennedy Library, (b) Information Technology Services, (c) Cal Poly Technology Park, (d) University committees, and (e) campus research centers and institutes

Procedures

Meetings

The committee meets on a regular basis, typically four to five times per quarter. An agenda identifies topics to be discussed, and informal meeting notes capture the main points of the discussions. In general, an attempt is made to reach decisions by consensus. If needed, votes are held either openly or in secret.

Tasks

The yearly agenda for the committee is driven by the charges as provided by the Senate Chair. Additional issues of interest can be brought up by committee members. Suggestions from constituents should be raised via the respective representative or the committee chair. The results of the deliberations are submitted to the Senate in quarterly and annual reports. Some deliberations result in resolutions proposed to the Senate.

Initiatives in Conflict with Cal Poly's Mission Statement

In the [R&PD Committee Report 2009](#), the committee included the following statement: "On an interim basis, the Research and Professional Development Committee will hear complaints from faculty about initiatives that are perceived to be in conflict with Cal Poly's Mission Statement. If the Committee finds merit in a complaint, it will forward it to the Academic Senate Executive Committee. This is a temporary increase in the Committee's duties. We urge the Academic Senate to find a more permanent way to resolve such concerns." When a different process for dealing with initiatives in conflict with Cal Poly's Mission Statement is adopted by the Senate, this paragraph will be removed from these procedures.

Membership

The general composition of the committee as well as its current members are described at the [Senate Web page for the R&PD Committee](#).