

Adopted: May 17, 2022

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

**AS-941-22**

**RESOLUTION ON AB 928 AND CSU GE GOLDEN FOUR**

**Impact on Existing Policy: <sup>i</sup>None**

1 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 928 (AB 928), the "[Student Transfer Achievement Reform](#)  
2 [Act of 2021: Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental](#)  
3 [Implementation Committee](#)," was signed into legislation in October 2021;  
4 and  
5

6 WHEREAS, AB 928 requires a common lower-division General Education (GE)  
7 transfer pathway that will meet transfer requirements into both the  
8 California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC)  
9 systems; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, AB 928 requires the establishment of the "Intersegmental Committee of  
12 Academic Senates" (ICAS) to develop the common GE pathway for  
13 transfer students by May 31, 2023; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, For the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC),  
16 the UC system seems to require 11 lower-division courses while the CSU  
17 requires 12 lower-division courses; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, The CSU has announced that, following the completion of the common  
20 GE pathway for transfer students, systemwide GE policy will be changed  
21 to conform with the common GE pathway by summer 2024; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, It is likely the ICAS will recommend an 11-course lower-division GE  
24 transfer pathway; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, The current CSU GE policy requires that all students successfully  
27 complete the "Golden Four" (A1: Oral Communication, A2: Written  
28 Communication, A3: Critical Thinking, and B4: Quantitative Reasoning);  
29 and  
30

31 WHEREAS, It is the impression of many CSU faculty and Academic Senates that the  
32 Chancellor's Office, based on the ICAS template, will consolidate some of  
33 the learning outcomes of the Golden Four; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, In particular, CSU Oral Communication (Area A1) is suspected to be  
36 absorbed by some of the other courses in the Golden Four because the  
37 UC does not require a course in oral communication; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, Other possible courses to be dropped from CSU GE are Area E: Lifelong  
40 Learning and Self-Development, which is outside of the Golden Four, and  
41 Area A3: Critical Thinking (even though critical thinking is part of the UC  
42 IGETC pathway) ([UC transfer IGETC advice](#)); and  
43

44 WHEREAS, Courses in these areas are important to student learning because they  
45 provide students with employable skills, teach them how to advocate for  
46 social justice, function as an equalizer for students from all backgrounds  
47 and experiences, and help to prepare students to respond to  
48 misinformation; and  
49

50 WHEREAS, Both oral communication and critical thinking are core competencies for  
51 WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), the CSU and  
52 UC accrediting agency ([WSCUC Core Competencies](#)); and  
53

54 WHEREAS, The remaining two courses in the Golden Four are already full of content  
55 in order to satisfy their learning objectives and cannot absorb the A1:  
56 Oral Communication or the A3: Critical Thinking learning objectives in an  
57 educationally effective manner; and  
58

59 WHEREAS, The Academic Senate notes that it is misleading to say that the UC  
60 requires 11 lower-division courses for IGETC because very few UC  
61 campuses *actually* require 11 lower-division courses for transfers; and  
62

63 WHEREAS, Complying with AB 928 by dropping one or two courses from the CSU  
64 IGETC list will not and can not secure a common transfer pathway for  
65 transfer students as long as IGETC decisions can be made not just at a UC  
66 campus level, but at a UC college level, let alone consideration of the UC  
67 "Basic Requirements"; therefore be it  
68

69 RESOLVED, The disciplines in the CSU Golden Four represent essential, foundational  
70 learning not only for the GE curriculum, but for every major curriculum as  
71 well; and be it  
72

73 RESOLVED, That in light of the decades-long educational value the CSU has many  
74 times confirmed, courses in oral communication, lifelong learning, and

75 critical thinking should be upheld, and the Golden Four disciplines should  
76 be retained as distinct areas within CSU GE and IGETC; and be it  
77  
78 RESOLVED: That this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Chancellor, all CSU  
79 Academic Senate Chairs, and the Academic Senate Statewide Executive  
80 Committee.

Proposed by: General Education  
Governance Board  
Date: March 18, 2022

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**<sup>i</sup> (1) Describe how this resolution impacts existing policy on educational matters that affect the faculty. Examples include curricula, academic personnel policies, and academic standards.  
(2) Indicate if this resolution supersedes or rescinds current resolutions.  
(3) If there is no impact on existing policy, please indicate NONE.**



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Thomas Gutierrez  
Chair, Academic Senate

**Date:** July 19, 2022

**From:** Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
President

**Copies:** Amy Fleischer  
Damon Fleming  
Bruno Giberti  
Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore  
Dustin Stegner  
Cem Sunata  
Christine Theodoropoulos  
Andy Thulin  
Dean Wendt  
Philip Williams

*Jeffrey D. Armstrong*

**Subject:** Response to AS-941-22 Resolution on AB 928 and CSU GE Golden Four

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By way of this memo, I acknowledge the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.

The Special Committee on AB 928 has recommended a single GE pathway of 34-semester units that preserves the A1: Oral Communication requirement along with the rest of the Golden Four (A2: Written Communication, A3: Critical Thinking, and B4: Quantitative Reasoning) and removes the requirement of E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development. This recommendation has not yet been incorporated into the CSU policy, but Cal Poly will implement that policy once it is approved by the CSU Board of Trustees as a change to Title 5.

Please express my appreciation to the Academic Senate members and the General Education Governance Board for their attention to this important matter.