



CAUFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California 93407
ACADEMIC SENATE
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MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
Tuesday, May 16, 2006
UU220, 3:10 to 5:00pm

(continuation of May 2, 2006 Academic Senate meeting)

- I. Minutes:
- II. Communication(s) and Announcement(s):
- III. Reports:
 - A. Academic Senate Chair:
 - B. President's Office:
 - C. Provost's Office:
 - D. Statewide Senators:
 - E. CFA Campus President:
 - F. ASI Representatives:
 - G. Other: Ikeda, report on CMS student administration project
- IV. Consent Agenda:
- V. Business Item(s):
 - A. Resolution on Grade Forgiveness: Schaffner, chair of Instruction Committee, second reading (pp. 2-4).
 - B. Resolution on Textbook Pricing: Foroohar, chair of Faculty Affairs Committee, second reading (pp. 5-8).
 - C. Resolution on Grading of Culminating Experience Graduate Courses: Opava, Dean for Research and Graduate Program, first reading (pp. 9-10).
 - D. Resolution on Class Scheduling Times for 70-minute Classes: Schaffner, chair of Instruction Committee, first reading (p. 11).
- VI. Discussion Item(s):
- VII. Adjournment:

Adopted:

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

AS- -06

RESOLUTION ON
GRADE FORGIVENESS

- 1 WHEREAS, Student success is a guiding principle in policy decisions; and
2
3 WHEREAS, Class space is limited and courses fill quickly; and
4
5 WHEREAS, Students may encounter situations that impede their ability to pass a course; and
6
7 WHEREAS, Some courses are well-recognized as particularly challenging and regularly have a
8 low pass rate; and
9
10 WHEREAS, Academic advising is an important way to identify and provide guidance for
11 failing students; therefore be it
12
13 RESOLVED: Students may repeat up to 16 units for grade forgiveness in courses that a grade of
14 D+, D, D-, F or WU was received; and be it further
15
16 RESOLVED: Any course is eligible for grade forgiveness one time only; and be it further
17
18 RESOLVED: Each quarter, advisors are encouraged to proactively contact and advise students
19 who have received a failing grade in any course.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Instruction Committee
Date: February 28, 2006
Revised: March 28, 2006

BACKGROUND

Because of the new implementation of the PeopleSoft system, we now have a ripe opportunity to consider any changes to our existing repeat policies. Software programming changes are best made during this implementation phase, so if we are ever to consider revisiting our policies, now is the time.

Furthermore, it is the sense of the Academic Senate Instruction Committee that there has been too little in the way of active advising of failing students. With this resolution, we have the opportunity to voice that concern with suggestions for improvement.

Current Policy (page 79, 2005-7 Catalog)

Undergraduate students may repeat a maximum of 20 units at Cal Poly for purposes of improving GPA. A course taken at Cal Poly or at another university or college in which a grade of D+ or less was received may be repeated at Cal Poly with the new grade recorded along with the prior grade. If the second grade is equal to or higher than the first, then the grade earned by repeated the course will replace the quality points, quality hours and earned hours which were previously earned. The original grade is "forgiven" from GPA computation, but both grades appear on the student's permanent record (transcript). With the exception of the reasons listed below, the repeat adjustment is made automatically at the end of the term in which the course is repeated. If a course is re-taken with credit/no-credit grading, the original grade will not be excluded from the GPA.

A repeat petition is required for the following reasons only:

- The course was originally taken at Cal Poly before Fall 1987
- The course was originally taken at another institution
- The course has changed prefix or number
- The course was taken through Cal Poly Extended Education

Repeat petitions for the situations listed above must be turned into the Office of Academic Records by the end of the seventh week of the quarter in which the course is repeated.

If the student repeats a course in which a C- or higher grade was earned, both grades will be calculated in the grade point average, but the duplicate earned hours will not be counted toward the degree.

REFERENCE INFORMATION
FOR
RESOLUTION ON GRADE FORGIVENESS

The following report summarizes the facts about numbers of students who "repeat" courses:

Source: PeopleSoft
Population: 15,389 undergraduates that are currently "active" (exit term greater than summer 2006)

11,157 students had no repeated units (72.5%)
3,750 students had at least one but less than 16 units repeated (24.4%)
 113 students repeated 16 units (0.7%)
 221 students repeated 17 to 19 units (1.4%)
 142 students repeated 20 units (0.9%)
 6 students had greater than 20 units repeated (less than 0.4%)

The average number of units repeated is 2.12

Please note that the population looked at does not match the spring quarter undergraduate headcount of 16,153 reported by IP&A since what was looked at was students with an active term greater than Summer 2006. However, this data does give a sense for the number of students who repeat courses.

April 13,2006

Adopted:

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

AS- -06

RESOLUTION ON
TEXTBOOK PRICING

- 1 WHEREAS, The Associated Students, Inc of Cal Poly (ASI) has expressed its concern
2 regarding the rapid rise in textbook pricing by recently approving a resolution
3 addressing this matter; and
4
- 5 WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of Cal Poly has supported the principles set forth in the ASI
6 resolution; and
7
- 8 WHEREAS, The complexity of textbook pricing necessitates a comprehensive study of the
9 issues and a search for solutions; and
10
- 11 WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of Cal Poly recognizes that the high cost of certain
12 textbooks and coursepacks can adversely affect the affordability of higher
13 education for its students; and
14
- 15 WHEREAS, The Academic Senate of Cal Poly and the University must protect the academic
16 freedom of faculty in assigning textbooks and other course materials while
17 recognizing the negative impact high textbook prices has on its students; therefore
18 be it
19
- 20 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly encourage its faculty to consider the
21 following steps in managing textbook costs to students:
22
- 23 1. Review prices for different textbooks and textbook packages before
24 ordering;
 - 25 2. Require new editions of continuing titles only when important changes
26 have occurred in content;
 - 27 3. Submit textbook requests as early as possible to ensure the availability of
28 textbooks through campus and local bookstores;
 - 29 4. Use coursepacks, e-reserves, and other cost mitigating formats whenever
30 pedagogically sound and feasible;

31 5. Communicate clearly with publisher representatives regarding textbook
32 pricing and options available;

33

34 and be it further

35

36 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly reaffirm the fundamental right and
37 responsibility of faculty to maintain intellectual content and teaching effectiveness
38 as prime considerations when selecting traditional textbooks, alternative formats,
39 and ancillary items of instruction; and be it further

40

41 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly will work with Information Technology
42 Services (ITS) and Associated Students Inc. (AS!) to look into the feasibility of
43 developing a central publicly accessible website which will provide information
44 about textbook requirements for Cal Poly courses; and be it further '

45

46 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly send this resolution to all Cal Poly faculty.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Faculty Affairs Committee
Date: January 31, 2006
Revised: February 28, 2006

Adopted: March 8, 2005

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

AS-630-05

RESOLUTION ON
TEXTBOOK PRICING

- 1 WHEREAS, Current textbook prices are of concern to faculty and students; and
2
3 WHEREAS, The Associated Students Incorporated (AS!) of Cal Poly has passed a resolution on
4 textbook pricing; therefore be it
5
6 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly recognize the students' concerns contained in ASI
7 Resolution #05-06 entitled *Support for Campus Leadership in Textbook Price Reduction*
8 (attached); and be it further
9
10 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly endorse the principles contained in ASI Resolution
11 05-06; and be it further
12
13 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly urge department chairs and heads to promote timely
14 submission of textbook orders by their faculty; and be it further
15
16 RESOLVED: That department chairs/heads and deans be encouraged to make teaching assignments as
17 early as possible so faculty can order textbooks in a timely manner; and be it further
18
19 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly follow up on other aspects of textbook, and other
20 textbook materials, pricing by holding meetings of the Faculty Affairs Committee with
21 representatives of El Corral Bookstore, campus textbook authors, students, representatives
22 of publishing companies, and other knowledgeable parties, with the intent of writing a
23 further resolution on this issue; and be it further
24
25 RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to academic department chairs, department heads,
26 and deans.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: February 15, 2005
Revised: March 7, 2005
Revised: March 8, 2005

Associated Students, Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #05-06

Support for Campus Leadership in Textbook Price Reduction

- Whereas: ASI is the official voice of the Cal Poly student body, and
- Whereas: According to a survey by the California Student Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) students spent an average of \$898 per year on textbooks in the 2003-04 school year, or almost 20% of the cost of in-state fees; and
- Whereas: According to the same survey a new textbook costs \$102.44 on average. 58% more expensive than the price of an average used textbook, \$64.80; and
- Whereas: Notices are issued to every faculty member requesting which textbooks will be required the following quarter; and
- Whereas: According to EI Corral Bookstore only 15-20% of faculty respond back to these notices before the deadline causing buyback prices to be severely reduced. and
- Whereas: Textbooks often come with bundled supplemental course materials that significantly increase the overall cost of textbooks to students, and
- Whereas: CALPIRG reported that 65% of faculty "rarely" or "never" use the bundled materials in their courses; and
- Whereas: Faculty and EI Corral Bookstore have power to reduce the cost of textbooks to students at Cal Poly.

Therefore

Be it resolved: Faculty are encouraged to respond to textbook requisitions in a timely manner so the bookstore can buyback used books at a higher price and make the used editions available for purchase, and

Furthermore

Be it resolved: ASI encourages EI Corral Bookstore to use all means possible to educate students about available discounts options for purchasing textbooks, and

Furthermore

Be it resolved: ASI encourages EI Corral Bookstore to use all means possible to ensure that all students receive the fairest prices on new and used textbooks, and

Adopted:

ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
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AS- 06

RESOLUTION ON
GRADING OF CULMINATING EXPERIENCE GRADUATE COURSES

1 Background: Open-ended research courses that represent the culminating experience for
2 graduate students are either Project (usually 539,596 or 598) or Thesis (599). Completing
3 requirements for these courses often delays degree completion for graduate students. Under the
4 present grading policy, RP grades (Report in Progress, formerly the "SP" grade) are valid for
5 three years, after which they are automatically changed to NC grades. This policy is a problem
6 for many students who are unaware of it and believe that the seven-year time limit is the only
7 deadline they have for degree completion. When an RP grade is changed to NC, the student must
8 re-register (2-9 units) in the course(s) in order to graduate. If the student no longer lives in
9 California, slhe must register as an out-of-state student. This is a disincentive for these students
10 to complete their degrees. In addition, changing an NC to a letter grade is extremely difficult,
11 even when the faculty advisors request it.

12

13 Since there is no real reason for a more restrictive time limit, the proposed resolution would
14 eliminate the three-year time limit for thesis/project completion and allow RP grades in those
15 courses that represent the culminating experience in the program (the specific courses noted
16 above, as well as similar culminating experience courses that may be developed) to remain valid
17 throughout the existing Title V-mandated, seven-year time limit for degree completion.

18

19 WHEREAS, Current policy on grading in Project (539, 596, 598) and Thesis (599) courses sets
20 a limit of three years on the length of time that RP (Report in Progress) grades
21 may remain without being converted to a letter grade; and

22

23 WHEREAS, If the culminating experience (539,596,598) or thesis (599) has not been
24 completed within the three-year period, the RP grade converts to an NC (No
25 Credit) and the student must re-enroll in Project/Thesis classes in order to receive
26 credit and a grade. In addition, the units with NC grades remain on the transcript;
27 and

28

29 WHEREAS, Graduate students are required to complete all graduate work, including Project
30 and Thesis work, within seven years, it is recommended that RP grades in 539,
31 596, 598 and 599 courses be valid for the seven-year time period. If a student

32 requests and is granted an extension of the seven-year limit, the RP grades in
33 those classes should remain valid until the new time limit is reached; therefore be
34 it

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36 RESOLVED: That RP grades given in Project (539, 596, 598 and other numbers that may be
37 assigned) and Thesis (599) classes remain in effect for seven years; and be it
38 further

39

40 RESOLVED: That if a student requests and is granted an extension of the seven-year limit, the
41 RP grade in Project/Thesis classes shall remain valid until the new time limit is
42 reached.

43

44 RESOLVED: That this policy change be applied immediately and retroactively to all students at
45 any stage of progress toward a graduate degree.

Proposed by: Graduate Studies Committee
Date: March 29, 2006
Revised: April 18, 2006
Revised: May 8, 2006

Adopted:

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

AS- -06

RESOLUTION ON CLASS SCHEDULES TIMES
FOR 70-MINUTE CLASSES

- 1 WHEREAS, Until Fall 2006, class scheduling patterns are permitted for 4-unit classes to be
2 taught in a MWF 70-minute pattern; and
3
- 4 WHEREAS, A MWF 70-minute time pattern effectively blocks two one-hour periods on
5 students' schedules making it more difficult for students to schedule classes; and
6
- 7 WHEREAS, A MWF 70-minute time pattern may not be an efficient use of limited classroom
8 resources; and
9
- 10 WHEREAS, Increasing enrollment figures will place increased demand on classroom
11 resources; and
12
- 13 WHEREAS, Some faculty find the MWF 70-minute schedule attractive for pedagogical
14 reasons; and
15
- 16 WHEREAS, Offering MWF 70-minute courses from 7:50-9:00am or after 6:00pm will not
17 cause substantial student and classroom scheduling conflicts; therefore be it
18
- 19 RESOLVED: That the only time slots that will be made available for faculty wishing to teach on
20 a MWF 70-minute pattern are from 7:50-9:00am or after 6:00pm ending by
21 10:00pm.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Instruction Committee
Date: April 12, 2006
Revised: April 18, 2006