WHEREAS, Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) leaked from fluorescent lamps on March 5 and again on March 17 in two different classrooms in the Engineering West building, exposing faculty and students (more than one class in the first incident); and

WHEREAS, PCBs are a known carcinogen and have also been proven to cause birth defects, gastric disorders, liver damage, skin lesions, and other severe health problems; and

WHEREAS, PCBs enter the body through the lungs, the gastrointestinal tract, or the skin and accumulate in fatty tissue, the liver, the kidneys, the lungs, the adrenal glands, the brain, the heart, and the skin, so that no exposure, however small, is safe; and

WHEREAS, California Polytechnic State University is pledged to the physical as well as the intellectual health of its students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, There can be no higher priority than the health and safety of campus personnel; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the replacement of all old fluorescent lamps on the campus be made a matter of the highest priority; and be it further

RESOLVED: That monies for this purpose be allocated immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Director of Public Safety and the Office of Plant Maintenance adopt stronger communication measures to prevent the inadvertent entry by campus personnel into a room contaminated with hazardous material; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Director of Public Safety report on progress towards the complete elimination of PCBs to the Academic Senate at regular intervals.

Proposed By:
Marlin Vix/Barbara Hallman/Susan Currier
May 7, 1986
MEMORANDUM

TO: Lloyd H. Lamouria, Chair Academic Senate

DATE: July 16, 1986

COPIES: Doug Gerard
Ed Naretto
James Landreth
Richard Brug
Don Van Acker
John Paulsen
Leroy Whitmer

FROM: Warren J. Baker
President

SUBJECT: Academic Senate Resolution on PCB's - AS-208-86

Following action by the Academic Senate, you forwarded to me Resolution AS-208-86 which dealt with replacing on campus on a high priority basis all old ballasts in fluorescent fixtures which may contain PCB, recommended that stronger communication measures be adopted to prevent inadvertent entry by campus personnel in areas where there may be ballast failures which contain PCB, and that periodic progress reports on replacing such ballasts be provided to the Academic Senate.

As a follow-up to the resolution, I have asked Doug Gerard, Executive Dean in charge of Facilities Administration, to provide a summary of facilities which have the old type fluorescent ballasts which may contain PCB, those that have been replaced to date, and the projected schedule and costs for replacing the remaining ballasts. In addition, I have requested James Landreth, in his capacity as Chair of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, to arrange for an independent Cal/OSHA consultant to evaluate the status of such ballasts and to provide the university with findings and recommendations. In addition, I have requested that the Director of Public Safety and the Director of Plant Operations re-emphasize and strengthen during the current school year the sensitivity to and proper responses by faculty, staff and students to any observed ballast problems. The university has in place policies, procedures, training, dispatch and response processes to deal with PCB problems which may involve transformers, switches, capacitors, and ballasts.

I have also requested that the Director of Public Safety follow-up with the Director of Plant Operations and the Executive Dean - Facilities Administration on the progress being made in replacing such fluorescent ballasts and periodically report that status to me, to you as the Chair of the Academic Senate, and to the members of the campus Environmental Health and Safety Subcommittee of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, which includes Senate representatives.