ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California

Background statement: On December 4, 1979, the Academic Senate approved a resolution which endorsed the concept of minor fields of study at the University. Since that time, no fewer than nineteen minors have been instituted at Cal Poly. Currently, there is one minor under consideration by the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee and there are indications that as many as ten new minors may be in the proposal stage for the coming catalog cycle. The number of existing minors combined with the possible new minor proposals have raised the concerns of both the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee and Executive Committee.

In consultation with the Offices of Academic Affairs and Institutional Studies, we have begun to study the subject of minors and offer this resolution in an attempt to organize a university-wide self-study of the existing policies concerning minors and to answer some questions which we do not believe have been addressed in the establishment or evaluation of minors.

AS-312-89/CC

RESOLUTION ON
ACADEMIC MINORS

WHEREAS, The number of minors within the university curriculum has grown from none to nineteen in less than ten years; and

WHEREAS, As many as ten new minors are being proposed for consideration in the next catalog; and

WHEREAS, There is no standardized procedure to determine the number of students currently enrolled in minors; and

WHEREAS, There is no readily available data as to how many students have enrolled in minors in the past and this information has only been included on their transcripts upon graduation; and

WHEREAS, Minors do not have to be declared until a student files for graduation; and

WHEREAS, The average course load per quarter for a student currently enrolled at the University is 13.5 units, with a minimum of 185 units—and most majors having 198 units—required for a degree program; and

WHEREAS, Many undergraduate degree programs have minimal (9) or less than minimal units available for completion of concentrations or free electives; and

WHEREAS, The average length of enrollment at Cal Poly is between five and six years; and
WHEREAS, Academic Senate resolution AS-182-85 stated in its RESOLVED clause

That the Academic Senate ask the President of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, to carefully consider the merits and benefits of the minors proposed for the 1986-88 catalog and approve them, providing an opportunity to see what the student demand for minors is and to assess the benefits or problems that may arise from having more minors available to the students.

No such assessment has been carried out; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee undertake a study of existing academic minors and that the scope of this study should include such items as the purposes of individual programs as well as the clientele, the number of minors awarded in each program, the effects of minors on the length of study programs, the effects on resources, the impact on admissions, the relationships of General Education and Breadth requirements and minors, the effects of minors on majors and concentrations, as well as the procedures for declaring and monitoring a minor; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this study be completed by the end of Winter Quarter 1990 with findings and recommendations made to the Academic Senate at that time; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee be allowed to make a recommendation to the Academic Senate on the Women's Studies minor, which was submitted during the 1987-88 academic year and is currently under consideration by the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee.

Proposed By:
Academic Senate Curriculum Committee
February 2, 1989
Revised February 23, 1989
(Approved as revised 9/0/2 with all members present)
Memorandum

To: Charles T. Andrews, Chair
   Academic Senate

From: Warren J. Baker
       President

Subject: ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION
ON MINORS (AS-312-89/CC)

This will acknowledge your memo of March 15 with which you transmitted the subject resolution adopted by the Academic Senate on March 7. I appreciate very much the background information which you provided with regard to the discussions and the very close vote of the Academic Senate on this issue. I have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with Vice President for Academic Affairs Malcolm Wilson. As a result of our discussions, I am approving the resolution as adopted by the Academic Senate.
Memorandum

To: Warren J. Baker
   President

From: Malcolm W. Wilson
       Vice President for Academic Affairs

Subject: ACTION BY ACADEMIC SENATE ON MINORS (AS-312-89/CC)

It is my recommendation that you approve the above cited Academic Senate resolution.
MEMORANDUM

To: Warren J. Baker  
President

From: Charles T. Andrews, Chair  
Academic Senate

Subject: Action by the Academic Senate on Minors (AS-312-89/CC)

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of the March 7, 1989 Academic Senate meeting. Of immediate concern is the question of postponing action on minors until there had been a review of the existing policy.

In May, 1983, AS-182-85/Curr. was passed by the Senate and approved by you. This resolution was entitled "Resolution Regarding Minors." I have enclosed the resolution and direct your attention to the resolved clause. It was this responsibility which the Curriculum Committee was attempting to fulfill with the current action.

However, the resolved clause which would have permitted this review was amended out of the Curriculum Committee's resolution. This was by a vote of 26 to delete and 22 to retain. Considering that many of the participants are in departments or schools having a minor pending before the Curriculum Committee, the vote was very close.

I have asked the Curriculum Committee to proceed with the review of courses and programs until such time as you have approved the resolution which was passed by the Senate on a final vote of 36 for, 7 opposed, and 3 abstaining. Some senators were opposed to voting for the final resolution because it was too weak for current purposes.

Bill Rife was present during this action and has direct observation of the issues brought out in the discussion.

I am available for discussion if desired.

Enclosures
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    Academic Senate

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Enclosures
I. Preparatory
A. The meeting was called to order at 3:14 p.m.
B. The minutes of the February 21, 1989 meeting were approved as submitted.

II. Communications
A. Barbara Melvin from personnel reported that First Farwest has been placed in receivership. The state's current contract with First Farwest goes through 7/31/89. It is everyone's intention to continue the contract until then, but First Farwest will not be available after that date. PERS negotiates the contract with health insurance providers, and they are looking into the financial situation. There is a possibility that people who are currently insured by First Farwest might be switched to another plan sooner than August 1 if the situation looks severe enough. In any case, there will be no lapse of coverage. Doctors will continue to be paid, and claims will be honored, but should be submitted in a timely fashion. The open enrollment period for this year (and subsequent years) will be May 1 to June 16, with changes becoming effective August first. Further information will be distributed as soon as it becomes available.

B. The chair noted the list of materials available for reading in the Senate office.

C. The chair announced that nominations are still being solicited to fill the Senate secretary position for spring quarter.

D. The chair noted that President Baker has approved the six resolutions listed in the agenda.

E. The chair noted the list of schools that participate in the National Faculty Exchange Program.

F. Nominations were requested for the Affirmative Action Faculty Development Proposal Review Committee. Names should be forwarded to the Senate office.

G. The chair announced that a special committee will be appointed to work on implementation of the 1980 Senate resolution on the survey of graduates.

H. The chair called attention to the report of the Election Committee regarding vacancies for next year's Senate.
III. Reports
A. President: none.
B. Academic Affairs: Bill Rife reported that Malcolm Wilson had been recently hospitalized, but has been released and is feeling better.
C. Statewide Senators:
Tim Kersten reported that the Statewide Senate is considering a resolution that addresses the effect on CSU of the State's budget problems. Representatives of the Statewide Senate will be meeting with key people in Sacramento next week to discuss this issue as well as to look into some proposed legislation on admissions to the three segments of higher education. Tim also reported that the Statewide Senate has approved a directive from the Chancellor's office on campus based overseas programs.

Reg Gooden reported that the Statewide Senate has approved 31 out of the 37 units in the proposed GE transfer curriculum. The remaining 6 units are still under consideration. There also an attempt to have the Intersegmental Committee look at a reciprocal agreement for transfers within the CSU and between CSU and UC. Reg also reported that the Academic Affairs Committee of the Statewide Senate was looking into various approaches to get the legislature to see how CSU has been affected by recent budget cuts. The attitude of the legislature seems to be that CSU has fared well relative to other state agencies. A recent statement from UC regarding the prospect of denying admission to a substantial number of students seems to have had no effect, so the CSU is looking for other ways to try and influence thinking on the issue. To this end, Reg requested that Senators provide him with any anecdotal evidence they might have regarding the inability of the CSU to accommodate students.

IV. Consent Agenda: none.
V. Business Items:
A. Resolution on Academic Minors, second reading

Christina Bailey indicated that there had been some changes in wording in response to suggestions made at the first reading, but that there were no substantive changes in the resolution. She pointed out that the last whereas is new.

M/S (Bailey, Lewis) to adopt the resolution.

M/S (Murphy, Moustafa) to amend the resolution by deleting the last two resolved clauses and removing the words 'be it further resolved from the second resolved.'

There was much discussion on this amendment, with the people
opposed indicating that it would be inappropriate to act on new proposals without first understanding how the current minors were functioning and what the effect of greatly expanding the number of minors would be on the university as a whole. People who spoke in favor of the amendment generally felt that it was unfair to halt consideration of new minors while a study was undertaken.

Jim Simmons suggested restoring the last resolved clause. This was accepted as a friendly amendment to the amendment.

The amended amendment now calls only for the deletion of the third resolved.

The amendment passed on a vote of 26-22.

Steve McGary suggested an editorial change in the background statement, changing the phrase as many as ten new minors may be in the proposal stage to as many as ten new minors are in the proposal stage. This editorial change was accepted by the body.

The resolution passed with a vote of 36-7-3.

B. Resolution on Graduate Programs, second reading

Christina Bailey indicated that this resolution is the result of work done by the Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee. It specifies the conditions under which 300 level courses can be included in a graduate program.

M/S (Murphy, Moustafa) to adopt the resolution.

Mike Botwin spoke against the resolution, saying that he felt that individual academic programs should be able to determine what was appropriate for their students without guidance from the Graduate Studies Committee and the Curriculum Committee.

The resolution passed.

VI. Discussion Items:

A. Search Committee for founding faculty of the San Marcos Campus

The chair announced that a search committee is being formed from CSU faculty system-wide to help in selection of new administrators and faculty for the San Marcos campus. Interested faculty should contact the Senate office.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.
RESOLVED. That the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee undertake a study of existing academic minors and that the scope of this study should include such items as the purposes of individual programs as well as the clientele, the numbers of minors awarded in each program, the effects of minors on the length of study programs, the effects on resources, the impact on admissions, the relationships of General Education and Breadth requirements and minors, the effects of minors on majors and concentrations, as well as the procedures for declaring and monitoring a minor; and be it further

RESOLVED. That this study be completed by the end of Winter Quarter 1990 with findings and recommendations made to the Academic Senate at that time; and be it further

RESOLVED. That the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee postpone the recommendation of minors being proposed for the 1990-92 catalog pending its report on minors to the Academic Senate; and be it lastly

RESOLVED. That the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee be allowed to make a recommendation to the Academic Senate on the Women's Studies minor, which was submitted during the 1987-88 academic year and is currently under consideration by the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee.

Approved by the Curriculum Committee

Vote 7/0/1—SAED and SEng not represented

Date 2/2/89

Approved as amended by the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee

Vote 9/0/2—All members present and voting

Date 2/23/89
CURRICULUM PACKAGE
FROM THE SENATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
FOR THE SCHOOLS OF:

AGRICULTURE

COMMUNICATIVE ARTS & HUMANITIES

ARCHITECTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Also included:
Resolution on Minors  (following title page)
School of Engineering - changes in graduate program
(following Resolution on Minors)

May, 1985

* * * * * *

Please note: A copy of catalog proposals is available for review in the Reserve Room of the Library.

APPROVED

May 28, 1985
May 30, 1985
RESOLUTION REGARDING MINORS

Background: Since several departments have proposed minors for the 1986-1988 catalog, and since no new minors were approved for the 1984-1986 catalog, the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee endorses the following resolution concerning minors, and submits it to the Academic Senate along with other catalog recommendations.

WHEREAS, A minor may give a student the opportunity to broaden his/her educational background and have that breadth of training indicated on his/her transcript; and

WHEREAS, A minor may increase the job opportunities available to a graduate; and

WHEREAS, A minor may be interdisciplinary and provide an opportunity for cooperative efforts of faculty from different disciplines; and

WHEREAS, Some majors have a number of electives allowing a student who plans carefully (often utilizing general education and breadth courses) to take a minor while not extending or only slightly extending his/her time in college; and

WHEREAS, Little or no additional faculty or facilities are necessary for some minors; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate ask the President of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, to carefully consider the merits and benefits of the minors proposed for the 1986-1988 catalog and approve them, providing an opportunity to see what the student demand for minors is and to assess the benefits or problems that may arise from having more minors available to the students.
CURRICULUM PACKAGE
FROM THE SENATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
FOR THE SCHOOLS OF:

AGRICULTURE

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Malcolm Wilson
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Malcolm,

I recommend that Warren Approve AS-312-89/CC.

Charlie's attached memo is confusing. The Senate Curriculum Committee presented a resolution which contained three points: that the Curriculum Committee should (1) undertake a comprehensive study of the effects of minors; (2) consider no new proposals for minors until the study was completed, at the end of WQ90; and (3) finish its review, already begun, of the Women's Studies minor. The Senate deleted point (2).

Point (2) was Charlie's idea, and I supported it on the grounds that minors are academic luxuries which keep our current students here longer and so keep other students out. Nevertheless, I think the Senate process worked well in this case, so I recommend Warren's approving the Senate's action, even though I don't agree with it.

Bill