RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate endorse the attached report of the Public Safety Advisory Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the riding of bicycles within the Inner Core of the campus as defined by the Outer Perimeter Road be restricted to Via Carta in a north/south direction; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Public Safety Advisory Committee continue to develop plans to promote safe use of bicycles by the Cal Poly community.

Proposed By:
Executive Committee
April 18, 1989
Revised May 2, 1989
Revised May 23, 1989
BICYCLE AND SKATEBOARD USE ON CAMPUS

INTRODUCTION

The problems of bicycles and skateboards were highlighted when each campus president received BA-88-06 from Vice Chancellor Dale Hanner. The content of the document centered around the concern for potential legal liability when campuses do not enforce adequate regulations to control bicycle and skateboard use. It was requested that each campus review individual bicycle and skateboard regulations and procedures to control the potential for accidents. An accident at Cal State Chico involving a bicycle and pedestrian (faculty member) resulted in permanent injury to the pedestrian and subsequent legal action. Accidents involving skateboards have also been publicized system-wide.

PROBLEM AT CAL POLY - BACKGROUND

SKATEBOARDS

The present "Skateboard Policy" at Cal Poly is as follows:

"The use of skateboards, roller skates, coasters or similar devices on the California Polytechnic State University campus is prohibited:

A. In any building
B. On any roadway
C. In any bicycle lane
D. Anywhere in the academic core, which is defined as the area bound by North Perimeter Road around South Perimeter Road to College Avenue, the west boundary of which is described as College Avenue, north to and including the walkways which line College Avenue with North Perimeter Road. This area shall include both sidewalks and bicycle lanes of the boundary streets. The prohibition of Section D applies only from 2400 hours on Sunday through 2400 hours on Friday and during special campus events occurring on weekends such as Poly Royal and homecoming."

Exemption

Special events involving skateboards, roller skates, coasters or similar devices which have been authorized by the Student Life and Activities and cleared through the university police office are exempted from the above prohibition.

THE PROBLEM

Cal Poly has become a very popular area for skateboarders, in particular, to off-campus youngsters. Strict regulations in the City of San Luis Obispo have highlighted the campus as a skateboard area and even more in recent years. The regulations are very difficult for many to understand as only a portion of the campus is restricted. Many persons who are stopped for violation of the regulations state that they were unaware that they were operating their skateboard in a restricted area.
Calls to Public Safety are continuous, especially during the summer and immediately following the end of the public school days. Most calls are in the area of the Student Union/Administration buildings. Near misses of pedestrians are the majority of calls.

Attempts to Solve the Problem

Public Safety police officers respond to all calls. First offenders are generally provided with educational information, i.e., regulations, dangers, consequences of future contact, etc. Second offenders are most times cited and in some cases, the skateboard is confiscated. Release of the skateboard is to the parent. Special enforcement techniques have been utilized to solve the problem.

Violators are most difficult to apprehend as they are very mobile, both on a skateboard and on foot. At the present time, it is the procedure of Public Safety to attempt to stop all persons operating a skateboard in the restricted areas. This is time consuming and from experience, not effective.

Public Safety Advisory Committee - Health and Safety Subcommittee - Parking-Traffic Subcommittee

The problem of skateboards on campus has been discussed numerous times at Health and Safety Subcommittee meetings. Near misses have been reported to members. The consensus over the past few years has been to prohibit the use of skateboards on campus. The issue has also been discussed at Parking-Traffic Subcommittee meetings the past several years. At the most recent meeting of the Subcommittee (March, 1988), a motion was made and seconded that skateboards should be eliminated from the campus; the motion passed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the use of skateboards on the campus of California Polytechnic State University by prohibited. This would eliminate the present regulations.

Impact of Approval of Recommendation

1. A consistent regulation. Public Safety will not have to explain regulations, i.e., areas where skateboards are permissible, etc.
2. Easier regulation to enforce.
3. Positive action in preventing injury to pedestrians and skateboarders.
4. Reduce the possibility of legal action against the University.

BICYCLES

At the present time, bicycles are allowed throughout the campus. Exceptions are on sidewalks and the provision that bicycle lanes will be used. In that bicycles are defined as a vehicle, sections of the vehicle code can be enforced, i.e., stopping at stop signs, etc.
THE PROBLEM

The problem is that the operators of bicycles fail to abide by the laws. On campus the main violations are failure to stop for stop signs, speed and failure to utilize bike lanes, i.e., riding on sidewalks and in roadways. The most serious problem occurs on the Inner Perimeter Road, easterly-westerly, where bicycles travel downhill attaining unreasonable rates of speed. This area is impacted with pedestrian traffic which results in a serious safety problem.

Attempts to Solve the Problem - Outer Perimeter Road

For several years the Public Safety Department has operated a student bicycle patrol whose main goal is to present safety awareness programs to the bicyclist. Safety issues are discussed with emphasis on obeying traffic regulations.

At least twice each year (past two years) special enforcement programs have been administered by the Police Section. After advertising regarding times and places of enforcement, citations are issued to violators. Approximately 75 citations were issued each day of the program.

Inner Perimeter Road

The bike patrol has concentrated on this location since its inception. Members have gone to the point of walking on the roadway, keeping pedestrians out of the bike lanes and bicyclists off the walkways. Enforcement is most difficult as police vehicles cannot be used. Lack of police manpower has limited foot patrol in the area. Inner Perimeter Road presents the biggest safety problem as it relates to possible injury to both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Public Safety Advisory Committee - Health and Safety Subcommittee - Parking-Traffic Subcommittee

The potential safety problems of bicyclists operating on the Inner Perimeter Road has been an issue discussed by the Health and Safety Subcommittee for years. In 1988, the Committee membership voted to send a letter to the Chairperson of the Parking-Traffic Subcommittee voicing this concern and requesting that the issue be studied and recommendations be made to solve the problem.

The issue has been a constant discussion item at the Parking-Traffic Subcommittee meetings. At the March, 1988, meeting a motion was made and seconded to recommend that bicycle riding be restricted within the campus core. The specific motion was that, "the riding of bicycles within the Inner Core of the campus as defined by the Outer Perimeter Road be restricted to Via Carta in a north/south direction;" the motion passed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the riding of bicycles within the Inner Core of the campus is defined by the Outer Perimeter Road be restricted to Via Carta in a north/south direction. It is further recommended that the appropriate consultation with student and faculty organizations take place during the Spring Quarter 1989 with anticipated implementation of the final resolution to begin during the Summer Quarter 1989 with the emphasis in the Fall Quarter of the 1989/90 academic year.
Impact of Approval of Recommendation

1. Reduction, with the goal of elimination, of safety hazards which could result in serious injury to pedestrians and bicyclists.

2. Possible negative impact by a segment of the campus population.

3. Adherence to B.A. 88-06.

4. Easier for Public Safety to enforce regulations.

CONCLUSION

This report has outlined the problems of the use of skateboards on campus and the operation of bicycles on the Inner Perimeter of campus. It has also listed recommendations agreed upon by members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee. It is felt that all alternatives to solve a problem have been attempted and strong actions are now needed.

Attachments
To: Charles T. Andrews, Chair
    Academic Senate

From: Warren J. Baker
    President

Subject: ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION 317 AND 318 REGARDING BICYCLE USE AND SKATEBOARD USE ON CAMPUS

This will acknowledge your memo of May 25 in which you transmitted resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate at its meeting of May 23 regarding Bicycle Use on Campus (AS-317-89/EX) and Skateboard Use on Campus (AS-318-89/EX). As I believe you are aware, the original recommendations on these two matters were made by the Public Safety Advisory Committee and its recommendations were provided to the Academic Senate as well as the Associated Students for review and consideration. Accordingly, the two recommendations of the Academic Senate are being forwarded to the Vice President for Business Affairs Jim Landreth who is Chair of the Public Safety Advisory Committee for consideration in formulating a final recommendation on this matter.
Howard West of my office indicated that you had called relative to the resolution adopted by the Academic Senate last year (AS-317-89) regarding bicycle use on campus. My understanding of your question was whether the intent of the Academic Senate resolution was included in the final recommendation of the Public Safety Advisory Committee implementing a program that would prohibit bicycle use in the inner core of the campus.

By way of background, I would point out that the original recommendation with regard to this matter came from the Public Safety Advisory Committee early last year. Because of the potential impact on the entire campus community, and as a part of the consultative process, those recommendations were forwarded to the Academic Senate and numerous constituent bodies for input and consideration. When the resolution of the Academic Senate was received last May, I responded on May 31 and indicated that the recommendation was being forwarded to Vice President for Business Affairs Jim Landreth, the Chair of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, for consideration in formulating the final recommendation.

The resolution of the Academic Senate, attached, has three resolved clauses and in essence endorses the report of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, that the riding of bicycles in the inner core be restricted to Via Carta in a North-South direction, and that the Public Safety Advisory Committee continue to develop plans to promote safe use of bicycles.

The final recommendation, which I have approved and is being implemented, includes all three elements of the resolution of the Academic Senate.

Attachment