Background Statement: The challenge facing our educational system is to provide an environment which encourages students of all backgrounds to fully develop their intellectual ability and prepare them to live productively in a multicultural society. Such an environment requires academic programs and services that give consideration to the multicultural heritage of the student population and of society as a whole.

The success of our multicultural society hinges on the productive interaction between people of different cultures, life styles, and views. Our educational system should be a catalyst for this interaction. Our state universities should create an environment in which every student--regardless of race or ethnic origins educated with respect to the cultural pluralism of our society. Cal Poly's academic programs should increasingly reflect this goal. The development of a U.S. Ethnic Pluralism program will promote this university objective.

AS-361-91
RESOLUTION ON
U.S. ETHNIC PLURALISM PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The U.S. Ethnic Pluralism program would introduce a significant and relatively new discipline to our curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Such a program would promote an enhanced understanding of ethnic cultures and traditions especially in relation to their interaction with those of the dominant culture; and

WHEREAS, Such a program would develop an appreciation for the contributions of ethnic communities; and

WHEREAS, This program would foster an analysis of the significant issues and problems facing ethnic communities; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that all Cal Poly students develop the understanding required to live and work productively and responsibly in California's and the nation's increasingly multicultural society; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly endorse the development of a U.S. Ethnic Pluralism program which would advance instruction about and enhance knowledge of the American cultures of Native Americans, African Americans, Chicanos/Latinos, Asian Americans, and others; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly endorse in principle the need for a "Cultural Pluralism" baccalaureate requirement at Cal Poly and hereby announce its willingness to work towards that goal--and the advancement of the proposal(s) judged best by university constituencies. The objectives of the said proposal(s), in general, are as follows:

a. To bring greater multicultural perspective to all Cal Poly students;
b. To foster greater understanding of cultural and ethnic differences in the United States and in relation to a wider world;
c. To help students appreciate differing cultural values and assumptions and the "relativity of otherness";
d. To nourish tolerance for and enjoyment of cultural diversity; and
e. To encourage American commonalities and continuities amidst diversity.

Proposed by: The U.S. Ethnic Pluralism Development Committee
(Luis Torres, Chair)
April 17, 1991
Revised May 14, 1991
State of California
Memorandum

To: Charles Andrews, Chair
   Academic Senate

From: Warren Baker
       President

Date - July 11, 1991
Copies: R. Koob

Subject: ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTIONS AS-359-91, AS-361-91 AND AS-362-91

In my response to James Murphy on May 30, I indicated that the three subject resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate at its May 14 meeting were being forwarded to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for review and recommendation. Based upon that review, I am pleased to endorse and approve these three resolutions:

AS-359-91/IC   Resolution on Academic Probation and Disqualification
AS-361-91   Resolution on U-S- Ethnic pluralism Program
AS-362-91   Resolution on Proposal to Establish the Agricultural Safety Institute