WHEREAS, Cal Poly has had a long history of compassionate interaction with families and friends of students who died while enrolled at the University; and;

WHEREAS, This compassionate interaction is in the best interest of the families and the University; and

WHEREAS, The awarding of a posthumous degree has frequently brought closure to a tragic situation for the family and friends of the deceased student as well as the University; and

WHEREAS, There has in recent years been a need for a uniform University policy concerning awarding posthumous degrees; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the family or other interested parties of the deceased student may initiate a request for posthumous degree through the student’s department; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the majority of faculty in the department of the student's major may recommend to the President the award of a posthumous degree to the family of a deceased student when that student has satisfactorily completed at least two-thirds (2/3) of all coursework towards a degree; and be it further

RESOLVED: That under special or unusual circumstances the President or designee may grant the awarding of a posthumous degree or certificate for a student who has completed less than two-thirds (2/3) of the degree coursework.

Proposed by: The Academic Senate Instruction Committee
Date: April 13, 2000
Revised: May 24, 2000
To: Myron Hood  
   Chair, Academic Senate

Date: October 24, 2000

From: Warren J. Baker  
   President

Copies: Paul Zingg, David Conn,  
   Mary Whiteford

Subject: Response to Senate Resolution AS-543-00/IC  
   Resolution on Proposal to Establish a Campuswide Policy on Posthumous Degrees

This will acknowledge receipt and approval of the above subject Resolution. I commend the Senate for taking the lead in establishing this campuswide policy. It is a fair, compassionate and sensitive approach to a difficult issue.