

ACADEMIC SENATE
Of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA

AS-550-00/CC
RESOLUTION ON
THE GRADUATE WRITING REQUIREMENT

- 1 WHEREAS, Executive Order 665 of Title V requires that students fulfill the Graduation Writing
- 2 Requirement (GWR); and
- 3
- 4 WHEREAS, Students may currently elect to meet the GWR through either the Writing Proficiency
- 5 Examination (WPE) or approved upper-division coursework offered by the English
- 6 Department; and
- 7
- 8 WHEREAS, Students should continue to have the option to meet the GWR through either the WPE or
- 9 coursework in order to help them speed progress toward the degree; and
- 10
- 11 WHEREAS, Many upper-division, writing-intensive classes can provide opportunities appropriate for
- 12 meeting the GWR; and
- 13
- 14 WHEREAS, Students should be encouraged to attempt the GWR early in their junior year, in order to
- 15 identify writing problems and improve writing skills so as not to delay graduation;
- 16 therefore, be it
- 17
- 18 RESOLVED: That students be allowed to satisfy the GWR either by passing the Writing Proficiency
- 19 Exam (WPE) or by being certified writing-proficient in a designated upper-division,
- 20 writing-intensive course; and, be it further
- 21
- 22 RESOLVED: That the Writing Skills Committee collaborate with the General Education Program and
- 23 other interested faculty to work out the specifics of how students will be certified writing-
- 24 proficient in upper-division, writing-intensive classes, and to explore ways to increase the
- 25 effectiveness of advising that will encourage students to attempt the GWR early in their
- 26 junior year; and, be it further
- 27
- 28 RESOLVED: That this resolution be considered a charge for the Academic Senate Curriculum
- 29 Committee.
- 30
- 31

Proposed by: The Academic Senate Curriculum
Committee (Endorsed by the Writing Skills Committee
and the General Education Committee)
Date: May 29,2000
Revised: October 16, 2000

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CAL POLY

State of California

Memorandum

ACADEMIC SENATE

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

To: Unny Menon
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: August 27, 2001

From: 
Warren J. I.
President

Copies: Paul Zingg
David Conn

Subject: Response to Senate Resolutions:
AS-550-00/CC-Graduate Writing Requirement
AS-553-01/IC-Choice of Catalog Requests Older Than 10 Years
AS-562-01/IC-Update the Campus Administrative Manual Senior Project Section
AS-563-01/IC-Publication of Change of Major Criteria
AS-569-01/IC-fucomplete "I" Agreements

I hereby acknowledge receipt of, and approve, the above-referenced Academic Senate Resolutions, and commend the Curriculum Committee, the Instruction Committee and the Academic Senate for addressing a number of issues relating to students' progress-to-degree.

AS-550-00/CC will increase the options available for students to meet the Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR) and also draws attention to the importance of effective advising in encouraging students to take the GWR early in their junior year.

AS-553-01/IC defines the criteria for determining whether a student should be allowed to complete his/her degree on a catalog older than ten years.

AS-562-01/IC provides for a clarification of the definition, expected outcomes, and requirements for senior projects, giving flexibility to individual departments, and will hopefully, lead to a higher completion rate for these projects. Cal Poly is undertaking a comprehensive review of its administrative policies that will result in a new collection of "Campus Administrative Policies" (CAP), published on the Web and in hard copy format. CAP will take the place of the pre-existing Campus Administrative Manual (CAM). CAM Section 412.2 dealing with Senior Projects has not yet been revised. Suggested changes to this section should be forwarded to the President's Office to be incorporated in the Campus Administrative Policies.

AS-563-01/IC takes an initial step toward addressing the problems associated with change-of-major, in requiring each college to publish applicable criteria as well as past acceptance rates.

Finally, AS-569-01/IC recommends the use of an "I" Agreement form as a means of making the process of converting an "I" grade to a letter grade less confusing for both students and instructors.

In closing, please extend my appreciation to the full Senate for dealing with these very important student and academic issues.