WHEREAS, The policy of The California State University (CSU) is to make its programs, services, and activities accessible to students, faculty, staff, and the general public with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Accessibility to information technology resources—such as web-based materials, programs and services—is mandated by federal and state law, including Section 508 of the U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 11135 of the California Government Code; and

WHEREAS, The CSU and its campuses (including Cal Poly) are required to comply with these laws, and it is the policy of the CSU to make information technology resources and services accessible to all CSU students, faculty, staff and the general public regardless of disability; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 926 (http://www.calstate.edu/EOIEO-926.html), which went into effect on January 1, 2005, documents CSU policies on disability support and accommodation, including access to electronic resources, and delegates responsibility to campus presidents to develop plans for compliance; and

WHEREAS, Noncompliance may incur costly legal penalties and tougher sanctions against the University based on recent experiences by other California colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Cal Poly has committed existing resources to facilitate and support campus compliance. Information Technology Services, Robert E. Kennedy Library and the Disability Resource Center are coordinating efforts to identify and address individual needs to develop, implement and support resources for making campus information technologies more accessible; and

WHEREAS, CSU has established a system wide Center for Alternative Media to help expedite delivery of electronic texts (e-texts of instructional materials) to eligible CSU students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, With the exception of mathematics and science textbooks, state law (AB 422) now requires publishers or manufacturers of printed instructional materials for students attending CSU to provide the same materials in an electronic format (at no charge to the University) to promote accessibility by students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, University administration and campus computing advisory committees (IRMPPC, AACC, IACC, SC3) have charged ITS with coordinating development of a framework to achieve
campus compliance with respect to accessibility to information technology resources and services; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate strongly endorse an active University role in establishing and maintaining a program of compliance with existing CSU policy and existing law governing accessibility to campus information technology resources; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this University program be campus-specific and outline a reasonable timeline for compliance; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate and appropriate faculty units be active participants in the construction of this program and in future program changes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That no recommendations concerning this program be sent to the Academic Senate without the prior review of the Academic Senate Instruction Committee.

Proposed by: William Bailey (Director, Employment Equity and Faculty Recruitment), Ann Fryer (Interim Director, Disability Resource Center), and Jerry Hanley (VP/CIO, Information Technology Services)

Date: December 14, 2004
Revised: January 7, 2005
Revised: January 31, 2005
Revised: February 8, 2005
Revised: March 1, 2005
To: David Hannings  
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: April 8, 2005

From: Warren J. Baker  
President

Copies: R. Detweiler, W. Bailey, A. Fryer, J. Hanley

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-628-05  
Resolution on Accessibility to Information Technology Resources

I am pleased to acknowledge and approve the above-entitled Resolution. As the Resolution notes, Information Technology Services (ITS) has been charged with developing a framework to ensure campus compliance with Federal and State laws and CSU policies regarding accessibility to electronic resources by students, faculty, staff and the general public with disabilities. ITS will coordinate the development of these policies in consultation with the campus computing advisory committees, the Disability Resource Center, the Academic Senate and its Instruction Committee.

I appreciate the efforts that the Academic Senate and other offices have done in the addressing this important issue.