

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-688-09

**RESOLUTION ON
SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- 1 WHEREAS, On April 23 2004, the University signed the Talloires Declaration that committed
2 Cal Poly to a ten-point action plan to implement sustainability; and
3
- 4 WHEREAS, The University Mission Statement concludes, “As an academic community, Cal
5 Poly values free inquiry, cultural and intellectual diversity, mutual respect, civic
6 engagement, and social and environmental responsibility;” and
7
- 8 WHEREAS, One of the seven University Learning Objectives states that all Cal Poly graduates
9 shall “Make reasoned decisions based on an understanding of ethics, a respect for
10 diversity, and an awareness of issues related to sustainability;” and
11
- 12 WHEREAS, The current WASC Reaccreditation self-study process has included sustainability
13 as one of two crosscutting issues; and
14
- 15 WHEREAS, The 2007 Institutional Proposal for Reaffirmation of WASC Accreditation states
16 that the University Learning Objectives will “continue to be a guide for both
17 accountability and, most importantly, improvement of our educational
18 effectiveness;” and
19
- 20 WHEREAS, Cal Poly’s 2009 Strategic Plan draft includes “Lead in Sustainability: Cal Poly
21 will lead in sustainability through the educational preparation of our graduates,
22 the research and scholarly contributions of our faculty, and the practices used
23 throughout the University,” as one of seven primary strategic goals and identifies
24 the need to create sustainability learning objectives; and
25
- 26 WHEREAS, The CSU Commitment to Sustainability considers “CSU’s best institutional
27 practices, as well as its hallmark strengths – teaching, applied research, and
28 community service – advocate for a special role for the CSU in sustaining the
29 continued economic and ecological viability of the state;” and
30
- 31 WHEREAS, California Assembly Bill 32, the “Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006”
32 establishes requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California that
33 will require sweeping changes to California’s economy and society, and creates a
34 critical need for polytechnic graduates well-versed in sustainability;

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36 WHEREAS, The Academic Senate Sustainability Committee has been charged with the task to
37 develop sustainability learning objectives, which they have done with input from
38 various stakeholders; therefore be it
39
40 RESOLVED: That the Sustainability Learning Objectives shall be considered an addendum to
41 the University Learning Objectives; and be it further
42
43 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate recommend the University adopt the following
44 Sustainability Learning Objectives as written.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Sustainability Committee
Date: May 1 2009
Revised: May 20 2009

SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

We define sustainability as the ability of the natural and social systems to survive and thrive together to meet current and future needs. In order to consider sustainability when making reasoned decisions, all graduating students should be able to:

1. Define and apply sustainability principles within their academic programs.
2. Explain how natural, economic, and social systems interact to foster or prevent sustainability.
3. Analyze and explain local, national, and global sustainability using a multidisciplinary approach.
4. Consider sustainability principles while developing personal and professional values.

State of California
Memorandum

To: John Soares
Chair
Academic Senate

Date: June 22, 2009

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: R. Fernflores
R. Koob
D. Conn

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-688-09
Resolution on Sustainability Learning Objectives

This memo acknowledges receipt and approval of the set of Sustainability Learning Objectives, which were attached to the resolution.

Please extend my thanks to the Academic Senate Sustainability Committee for developing this set of sustainability learning objectives.