

Adopted: May 4 2010

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

AS-709-10

RESOLUTION ON PRIVATE DONORS

- 1 **RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate support and endorse the ASCSU “Resolution on Private
2 Donors’ Respect for Academic Freedom” (AS-2936-10/FA attached); and be it
3 further;
4
- 5 **RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate request that the President, Provost, the Vice-President
6 for Advancement, deans, and department chairs/heads communicate the principles
7 of academic freedom and the faculty’s autonomy in curricular and educational
8 policies to private donors.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: March 22 2010
Revised: April 6 2010

1 Agenda Item

AS-2936-10/FA (Rev)
January 21, 2010
Second Reading – March 10-11, 2010

Resolution on Private Donors' Respect for Academic Freedom

1. RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) strongly reaffirm its commitment to academic freedom of the faculty and “the protection of freedom of inquiry, research, expression and teaching both inside and beyond the classroom” (AS-2675-04/FA - November 11-12, 2004); and be it further
2. RESOLVED: That the ASCSU reaffirm that decisions affecting the curriculum and the selection of the faculty for academic programs are under the purview of campus faculty (AS-2822-07/FA); and be it further
3. RESOLVED: That the ASCSU deplore attempts by private donors to pressure local administrations to intervene in faculty’s academic decisions and activities inside and beyond the classroom based upon donors’ political and economic views and interests; and be it further
4. RESOLVED: That ASCSU request that the Chancellor's Office and campus administrations craft disclaimers to inform donors and university personnel with whom they deal that donors’ financial support of the academic enterprise does not convey a right to inject personal or political beliefs to influence the academic content delivered; and be it further,
5. RESOLVED: That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to the Board of Trustees, Campus Presidents, Vice Presidents for Advancement and Public Affairs, and Campus Senate Chairs.

RATIONALE: Seeking private funding has become an important way of supplementing the dwindling state support for the higher education. Some of the non-academic organizations which donate to CSU programs are not familiar with, nor respectful of, the principle of academic freedom as the cornerstone of the university life. A recent and illustrative incident at one CSU campus has raised concern that donors may be attempting to exert pressure to influence invitations to controversial speakers and to affect curricular decisions. (See Los Angeles Times, October 14, 2009; San Luis Obispo Tribune, January 10, 2010) In the absence of clear guidelines for the advancement staff to firmly communicate with the donors the principle of non-intervention in faculty's educational decisions, we will run the risk of outside pressure on our faculty to change the content of their educational programs inside and beyond the classroom.

Pass without dissent

State of California
M e m o r a n d u m

CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

To: Rachel Fernflores
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: June 18, 2010

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: R. Koob

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-709-10
Resolution on Private Donors

This memo acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.