WHEREAS, Faculty have primacy over the curriculum and have specialized knowledge of the skills and subject matter pertaining to their respective disciplines and the expertise and experience to determine which particular pedagogical methods can most effectively convey those skills and that subject matter to their students; and

WHEREAS, The success of a system-wide online initiative depends crucially on widespread faculty involvement, engagement and consultation at all stages of its development; and

WHEREAS, Well-designed and executed online programs can be a useful addition to the variety of pedagogical methods available to faculty; and

WHEREAS, A CSU system-wide initiative can offer potential benefits (1) in the financing and marketing of online programs due to economies of scale, (2) in serving as a repository of best practices developed at several CSU campuses, and (3) in creating opportunities for inter-campus collaborations; and

WHEREAS, A system-wide online initiative must address in a clear and transparent manner core issues including but not limited to (1) the intellectual property rights of faculty, (2) the quality and effectiveness of online courses, programs, and degrees, (3) faculty involvement in curriculum development, approval, and oversight, (4) student, faculty, and program assessment, and (5) the scope and nature of online offerings in comparison to traditional modes of delivery; and

WHEREAS, Faculty working at their individual campuses within their particular disciplines who have immediate knowledge both of the demands of those disciplines and the needs of their students are expected to develop their own courses and programs for the traditional classroom; the same shall be held with regard to online courses; and

WHEREAS, Faculty need far greater clarity concerning the core issues (listed above) and other issues than were provided during the CSU Online Webcast of November 26 2011, during which several important issues were deferred to the newly hired Executive Director for the CSU Online initiative; and
WHEREAS, Although faculty consultation conducted thus far is described as “broad-based” on the CSU Online website, only 10 of 23 campuses were consulted; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, call upon the Chancellor to give top priority in all short-term expenditures related to the development of CSU Online to obtaining broad-based faculty consultation and active involvement across all 23 CSU campuses that addresses the multiple and subtle core issues related to the development of CSU Online; and be it further

RESOLVED: that the Academic Senate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, call upon the Chancellor to ensure the CSU neither enters into any contracts with external service providers for CSU Online nor incurs any significant expenditures other than for the purpose of faculty consultation until consensus has been reached among all 23 campus Senates on a clear and transparent plan for CSU Online; and be it further

RESOLVED That copies of this resolution be distributed among CSU campus Senate Chairs, the Executive Committee of the CSU Academic Senate, Chancellor Charles B. Reed, Executive Vice Chancellor Ephraim P. Smith, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Benjamin F. Quillian, the Technology Steering Committee Presidents (Karen Haynes, Jolene Koester, Rollin Richmond, Richard Rush, John Welty, F. King Alexander, Jeff Armstrong, Millie Garcia, Paul Zingg), and members of the CSU Board of Trustees.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Online Task Force
Date: December 11 2011
Revised: January 10 2012
This memo formally acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.