

Adopted: June 6, 2017

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

AS-835-17

**RESOLUTION ON PROPOSING NEW COURSES OR OTHER
CHANGES TO CURRICULA**

- 1 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Faculty of the California Polytechnic State University
2 empowers the Academic Senate to “exercise all legislative and advisory powers on
3 behalf of the General Faculty,” and that such “legislative powers shall include all
4 educational matters that affect the General Faculty (e.g., curricula, academic personnel
5 policies, and academic standards);”¹ and
6
- 7 WHEREAS, The responsibility of the faculty for the development of curriculum and instruction is a
8 fundamental principle supported by the American Association of University Professors
9 (AAUP) (*Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*)² and the Academic
10 Senate of the CSU (ASCSU) (*Collegiality in the California State University System*,
11 1985)³ to name a few; and
12
- 13 WHEREAS, At times it has been necessary to reassert this principle, for example by the ASCSU
14 (*Reasserting Faculty Control of Curricula Regardless of Delivery Mode*, AS-3081-
15 12/FA/AA)⁴, and by the Cal Poly Academic Senate (*Resolution on Shared*
16 *Governance*, AS-748-12)⁵; and
17
- 18 WHEREAS, Current campus procedures establish the workflow for proposing new curricula: the
19 Office of the Registrar states that “Proposals for new courses are developed by faculty
20 and submitted for approval through the Curriculum Management system,”
21 (<http://registrar.calpoly.edu/course-policies-guidelines#Propose%20a%20New%20>),
22 and Academic Senate Bylaws (VIII.I.2b) state that “[t]he Curriculum Committee
23 evaluates curriculum proposals from departments and colleges;” and
24
- 25 WHEREAS, Faculty may welcome input or seek collaborative opportunities with anyone within the
26 campus community, but the responsibility for the curriculum ultimately resides with
27 the General Faculty; therefore be it
28
- 29 RESOLVED: That the faculty reassert and reaffirm that, by virtue of the Constitution of the Faculty,
30 development of curriculum and instruction are the purview of the General Faculty; and
31 be it further
32
- 33 RESOLVED: That all proposals for new courses or other changes to curricula be made through and
34 sponsored by the curriculum committee of the appropriate academic department(s) and
35 associated college(s).

Proposed by: Glen Thorncroft, Senator, CENG
 Paul Rinzler, Senator, CLA
 Lauren Garner, Senator, CAFES
Date: December 5, 2016
Revised: April 19, 2017

Footnotes:

¹ Constitution of the Faculty and the Bylaws of the Academic Senate, Article III, Section 2.

² “When an educational goal has been established, it becomes the responsibility primarily of the faculty to determine the appropriate curriculum and procedures of student instruction.” AAUP *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*

³ “Because the university’s curriculum is of central concern to the faculty and because faculty have the primary responsibility in curricular decisions, it follows that faculty should have the major voice in academic policy decisions which closely affect the curriculum, access to the curriculum, or the quality of the curriculum.” *Collegiality in the California State University System*, Academic Senate of the CSU (1985)

⁴ “RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) reassert that the quality of the curriculum for academic credit, including technology-mediated courses and online courses, remain the purview of the faculty individually and collectively...” *Reasserting Faculty Control of Curricula Regardless of Delivery Mode*, CSU Academic Senate, AS-3081-12/FA/AA

⁵ “RESOLVED: That the faculty affirm its primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and student educational processes...” *Resolution on Shared Governance*, Cal Poly Academic Senate Resolution AS-748-12

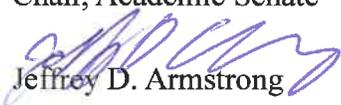
MEMORANDUM

Cal Poly | Office of the President



To: Dustin Stegner
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: October 25, 2017

From: 
Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President

Copies: K. Enz Finken
M. Pedersen
A. Liddicoat
G. Thorncroft
P. Rinzler
L. Garner

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-835-17
Resolution on Proposing New Courses or Other Changes to Curricula

This memo acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled resolution. I want to reiterate that while the development and approval of curriculum is the responsibility of the faculty and Academic Senate, financial support and implementation of curriculum is the responsibility of the administration. While any member of the campus community may propose ideas and content for curriculum, all proposals must be sponsored by an academic department and approved through the formal curricular review and approval process prior to adoption.

Please extend my thanks to the Academic Senate members for their attention to this matter.