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

AS-848-18

RESOLUTION ON DISCONTINUATION OF B.A. IN LIBERAL STUDIES
DEGREE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Cal Poly has a policy on the Discontinuation of Academic Programs, which requires a potentially lengthy review by two separate groups, one representing students, staff, and faculty that are involved in the program, and the other representing students, staff, and faculty that are not involved in the program; and

WHEREAS, The Liberal Studies Department used to offer a B.A. and a B.S. in Liberal Studies; and

WHEREAS, The B.A. in Liberal Studies degree program was a broad-based, interdisciplinary course of studies; and

WHEREAS, The department now focuses on pre-professional, subject-matter teacher preparation, which is the mission of the active B.S. in Liberal Studies program; and

WHEREAS, The B.A. in Liberal Studies program has been suspended for the past 13 years; and

WHEREAS, The Liberal Studies faculty, including the Department Chair, have voted to discontinue the B.A. in Liberal Studies; and

WHEREAS, There are no students currently active in the program, and any former student who left without completing the B.A. in Liberal Studies could return to complete the B.S. in Liberal Studies program; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the B.A. in Liberal Studies program be discontinued as of AY 2018-2019, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the discontinuance of the aforementioned program does not establish any criteria for the discontinuation of any other academic program.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Curriculum Committee and Academic Programs and Planning
Date: April 10, 2018
MEMO

To: President Jeffrey Armstrong, Ph.D.
FROM: Lola Berber-Jimenez, Chair
SUBJECT: Discontinuing the BA in Liberal Studies
DATE: February 8, 2018
CC: Mary Pedersen, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Planning
Dustin Stegner, Academic Senate Chair
Amy Robbins, Academic Programs & Planning
Anne Marie Bergen, LS curriculum chair

The Liberal Studies Department used to offer two degree programs for our majors, a BA and a BS. The BA Liberal Studies degree was a broad-based interdisciplinary course of study for students that were meeting individual needs and interests. Over time, we focused on our coursework leading to pre-professional subject matter teacher preparation only, which is the current focus of our active BS Liberal Studies. Since the admission to the BA Liberal Studies program has been suspended for the past 13 years, we reviewed the possibility of resurrecting this degree.

The Liberal Studies committee met this week to review our intentions, current and future goals. After analyzing pros and cons, all faculty voted that we discontinue the BA in Liberal Studies. We see no reason to keep this program in our system. Our current offering of a BS in Liberal Studies is the correct degree designation for our curriculum and target students. I hereby formally request that we discontinue the BA in Liberal Studies.
MEMORANDUM

To: Dustin Stegner  
Chair, Academic Senate

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
President

Date: July 20, 2018

Copies: K. Enz Finken  
M. Pedersen  
D. Wendt  
D. Gragson  
K. Green Hall  
L. Berber-Jimenez

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-848-18 – Resolution on Discontinuation of B.A. in Liberal Studies Degree Program

I am pleased to acknowledge and approve the above-entitled Academic Senate Resolution.

Please express my appreciation to the Academic Senate members, the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee and the Office of Academic Programs and Planning for their attention to this important curricular matter.