WHEREAS, Cal Poly is currently in the process of Alternative Consultation regarding the Opportunity Grant and Fee; and

WHEREAS, The cost of attendance at Cal Poly represents one of the greatest values in higher education in the country but is still financially prohibitive for many low-income California students; and

WHEREAS, The Opportunity Fee would be assessed upon non-California resident students beginning as early as Fall 2019 and increased incrementally over four years; and in turn the Opportunity Grant would be used to increase access to Cal Poly by covering campus fees for low-income California students; and

WHEREAS, Based on Cal Poly’s experience with Cal Poly Scholars program, the Cal Poly Opportunity Grant may also enhance the diversity of the student body, aid in increasing graduation rates, and eliminate the achievement gap experienced by low-income, first-generation students; and

WHEREAS, President Armstrong, at the May 8, 2018 Academic Senate meeting, articulated that the Cal Poly Opportunity Fee and Grant will be distributed in the following manner: student grants (50%-70%); direct student support (15-25%), with allocation proposals reviewed by an advisory committee to be composed of students, faculty and staff, including members recommended by ASI and Academic Senate; and hiring of tenure-line faculty members (15-25%), with proposals being reviewed by the Campus Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the Alternate Consultation process, President Armstrong stated at the same meeting that there will be no direct allocation of student fees to the Chancellor’s Office, but rather an increasing set aside from alternate funds will be introduced beginning in 2021-22 at 5%, of the gross amount of Opportunity Fee, then increasing to 10% in 2022-23, and then continuing at a rate of 15% into the future; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate support the proposed Opportunity Grant and Fee, as presented by President Armstrong at the May 8, 2018 meeting of the Academic Senate and indicated in the attached summary, and be it further.

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate request that Chancellor Timothy White reevaluate any requirements for any financial set aside because of Cal Poly’s unique situation in the California State University system regarding its underrepresentation of students receiving financial aid.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: March 8, 2018
Revised: May 9, 2018
Revisions to the Cal Poly Opportunity Grant and Fee
as Presented by President Armstrong at the May 8, 2018 Academic Senate Meeting

- Only for undergraduate students
- Fee will not be higher than $2,010 a year for four years
- The cap for enrollment of out-of-state students will remain at 15% of Cal Poly population
- Quality of students must be maintained
- Fee will be based on progress to degree and drops if the students become graduate students
- 50-70% of funding could go to the grant at any given year
- 15-25% will go to direct student support and advising
- No more than 50% of the 15-25% will go to advising
- An advisory committee will provide recommendations to the President on how to spend the 15-25% for student support
- Remaining 15-25% will be used to increase tenure density with emphasize on diversity
- The Campus Advisory Council will serve as an advisory function for the 15-25% for tenure density
- There will not be a direct set aside for the Chancellor’s Office
- The set aside for the Chancellor will come from other funds, not a campus fee. The first and second year, the fee will be zero, and it will be 5% the third year, 10% the fourth year, and 15% for the subsequent years
- A report will be due in 2023 in addition to annual reviews
- All monies collected will stay on campus
MEMORANDUM

To: Dustin Stegner
Chair, Academic Senate

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President

Date: July 20, 2018

Copies: K. Enz Finken
C. Vizcaíno Villa
K. Humphrey
J. DeLeon
M. Pedersen

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS 849-18 – Resolution to Support Cal Poly Opportunity Grant and Fee

This memo acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled resolution. I appreciate the support of the Academic Senate for the Cal Poly Opportunity Grant and Fee discussed at the May 8, 2018 Academic Senate meeting. Through the Cal Poly Opportunity Grant, the university has a chance to serve a broader cross-section of California residents, and to support them in a variety of ways. Based on the positive impact of the Cal Poly Scholars Program, this grant and fee have the potential to enhance the university’s ongoing diversity efforts, aid in increasing graduation rates and eliminate the achievement gap experiences by low-income, first-generation and diverse students by 2025.

In addition, I have noted in the final Resolved clause a request to Chancellor White which I will put forward at our next meeting.

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