

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California 93407
ACADEMIC SENATE
805.756.1258

**Meeting of the
Academic Senate Executive Committee**
Thursday, July 6, 2000,
UU220, 10:00-Noon

*minutes of
4.18 and 5.9.00
were
removed*

- I. Minutes: Approval of Executive Committee minutes for the meetings of April 18 and May 9, 2000. (pp. 2-6).
- II. Communication(s) and Announcement(s):
- III. Reports:
 - A. Academic Senate Chair:
 - B. President's Office:
 - C. Provost's Office:
 - D. Statewide Senators:
 - E. CFA Campus President:
 - F. ASI Representative:
 - G. Other:
- IV. Consent Agenda:
- V. Discussion Item(s):
 - A. **Appointment to Committees:** (pp. 7-8).
 - 1. IACC
 - B. **Charge to Academic Senate Committees:**
 - 1. Curriculum Committee
 - 2. Instruction Committee
 - 3. Faculty Affairs Committee
 - C. **Change in Program Review and Improvement Committee** (discussion is dependent upon availability of new information from IALA or Academic Affairs)
 - D. **Other Campus Issues:**
 - 1. Mail Center Shredding
 - 2. Summer Enrollment
- VI. Business Items:
 - A. **Resolution on The Graduate Writing Requirements:** Curriculum Committee (p. 9).
 - B. **Resolution on the Revision of Fairness Board Description and Procedures:** Fairness Board (pp. 10-13).
- VII. Adjournment:

**Please think about issues that you believe the three committees listed
under Discussion Item B should address.**

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES
Faculty Interest Questionnaires Vacancies for 2000-2002

Department

Order of Preference

INSTRUCTIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING

(1 Vacancy/1 Appointment)

STUDENT HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(1 Vacancy/1 Appointment)

6.20.00

Academic Senate Committee Vacancies for 2000-2002

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Department

Order of Preference

Program Review and Improvement Committee

Student Grievance Board

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Department

Order of Preference

Grants Review Committee

Program Review and Improvement Committee

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Department

Order of Preference

Program Review and Improvement Committee

Adopted:

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

**AS-____-00/
RESOLUTION ON
THE GRADUATE WRITING REQUIREMENT**

- 1 WHEREAS, Executive Order 665 of Title V requires that students fulfill the Graduation Writing
2 Requirement (GWR); and
3
- 4 WHEREAS, Students may currently elect to meet the GWR through either the Writing Proficiency
5 Examination (WPE) or approved upper-division coursework offered by the English
6 Department; and
7
- 8 WHEREAS, Students should continue to have the option to meet the GWR through either the WPE or
9 coursework in order to help them speed progress toward the degree; and
10
- 11 WHEREAS, Current policy allows students to be certified through coursework by receiving a grade of
12 C or better and being certified as writing-proficient based on an in-class essay; and
13
- 14 WHEREAS, The new General Education (GE) Program, which takes effect in Fall 2001, provides an
15 opportunity for enlarging the course options for meeting the GWR beyond those currently
16 offered; and
17
- 18 WHEREAS, Many upper-division, writing-intensive GE classes can (at the discretion of faculty
19 members offering the classes) provide opportunities appropriate for meeting the GWR;
20 and
21
- 22 WHEREAS, Students should be encouraged to attempt the GWR early in their junior year, in order to
23 identify writing problems and improve writing skills so as not to delay graduation;
24 therefore, be it
25
- 26 RESOLVED: That students be allowed to satisfy the GWR either by passing the Writing Proficiency
27 Exam (WPE) or by being certified writing-proficient on a GWR essay and getting at least
28 a C as a course grade in a designated upper-division, writing-intensive GE course; and be
29 it further
30
- 31 RESOLVED: That the Writing Skills Committee collaborate with the GE Committee to work out the
32 specifics of how GWR essays will be administered and scored in upper-division, writing-
33 intensive GE classes, and to explore ways to increase the effectiveness of advising that
34 will encourage students to attempt the GWR early in their junior year.

Proposed by: The Academic Senate Curriculum
Committee (Endorsed by the Writing Skills Committee
and the General Education Committee)
Date: May 29, 2000

Adopted:

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

AS-____-00/FB
RESOLUTION ON REVISION OF
FAIRNESS BOARD DESCRIPTION AND PROCEDURES

1 WHEREAS, Executive Order 320 requires all CSU campuses to implement policies and
2 procedures for grade appeals including annual reporting to the President and
3 Academic Senate; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Compliance with this requirement is monitored as part of the Student Records
6 and Registration Audit conducted by the Office of University Auditor and that
7 said auditors have had difficulty in assuring compliance with the annual
8 reporting process; therefore, be it
9

10 RESOLVED: That section E of the *FAIRNESS BOARD DESCRIPTION AND*
11 *PROCEDURES* be modified as follows to provide for retention and access to
12 a copy of the annual report in the Registrar's office:
13
14

15 E. In accordance with Executive Order 320, at the end of every academic
16 year the Fairness Board chair shall report, in writing, to the Academic
17 Senate and the President the number of cases heard during that academic
18 year and the disposition of each such case. A copy of this report shall also
19 be filed annually with the University Registrar so that it is available for
20 review during the student records and registration audit.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Fairness Board
Date: June 9, 2000

FAIRNESS BOARD
DESCRIPTION AND PROCEDURES

Description

The Fairness Board is the primary campus group concerned with providing "due process" of academically related matters for the students and instructors at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, particularly in terms of student/faculty relationships. The Board hears grade appeals based on the grievant's belief that the instructor has made a mistake, shown bad faith or incompetence, or been unfair. (For cheating, see CAM 684)

Although in grade appeals the Board operates under the presumption that the grade assigned was correct, should its members find that the evidence indicated that such was not actually the case, the chair will recommend to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs that the grade be changed. In all cases, the Board's authority is limited to actions consistent with system policy.

Procedures

- A. Any student who still feels aggrieved after requesting relief from both the instructor and instructor's department head, may initiate an appeal for redress by writing to the chair of the Fairness Board. The chair may counsel a student as to the relative merit of his/her case, but must accept all written complaints which are ultimately submitted. The chair will provide the student with a copy of "Fairness Board Description and Procedures." The student's letter should contain all pertinent details of the situation, name of the course, section, instructor and term in question, list any witnesses to be called, state redress sought, and include as attachments all relevant documents, including items such as course grade determination handout, exams, papers, letters of support, etc. The student has the responsibility of identifying evidence to overcome the Board's presumption that the instructor's action was correct. If the Board decides the case may have merit, then the following actions will then take place:
1. The chair will forward a copy of the above letter to the challenged party and request his/her written reply to the chair within one week. The chair will share a copy of any reply with the student grievant. The chair will also send a copy of "Fairness Board Description and Procedures" to the challenged party.
 2. The chair will make scheduling arrangements as soon as possible for the hearing which will be conducted informally. At least six Board members must be present before a hearing may begin, and the same six members must be present for the full hearing.
 3. When a hearing is scheduled, the chair will notify the Board members and the two principal parties.
 4. Board members will disqualify themselves from participation in any case if they are a principal or if they feel they cannot be impartial.
 5. The Board will allow each principal party, who may be accompanied by his/her advisor (not a practicing attorney of law), to present his/her case personally, call and question witnesses, and present exhibits. The Board may ask for copies of any material it believes relevant to the hearing. The student grievant will usually appear first.
 6. Each Board member may ask questions of either party or any witness.

7. The Board itself may call witnesses or recall witnesses.
 8. The Board will handle all proceedings without undue delay, will keep a summary file of each case, and will tape record the hearing.
 9. The Board will close the hearing when satisfied that both sides have been fully heard.
 10. The Board will deliberate in private and will make a written summarization of the facts of the case and of the Board's reasoning in its recommendation to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.
 11. The chair will send a copy of its recommendation to each principal party, to the instructor's department, and to each Board member.
 12. Should any member(s) of the Board desire to file a minority recommendation, it will be attached to the Board's majority recommendation.
 13. The Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs will inform the Board and each principal party what action, if any, has been taken. The Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs shall have final authority regarding any change of grade with the provision, however, that no grade change will be made unless it is recommended by the Board. If the recommendation of the Fairness Board is not accepted, the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs shall indicate the reason(s) why in writing to the Board.
- B. The hearings are closed to all persons except the Board and the two principal parties and advisors. Witnesses, if any, shall be present only when testifying. No testimony shall be taken outside the hearing room, but written statements from persons unable to attend are admissible. Exceptions to these rules are possible if the Board and both principals have no objections.
- C. Students should ideally initiate any grade complaint within one quarter as instructors are obligated to retain evaluation instruments for only one quarter. However, the Board will accept grievances for two quarters after an evaluation. If special circumstances exists, such as when an instructor is on leave and not available to the student, the Board may choose to entertain grievances involving grades issued more than two quarters earlier.
- D. In the event a situation arises wherein the Board unanimously deems the above rules inappropriate, the Board will modify its procedures to insure that fairness prevails.
- E. At the end of every academic year, the Fairness Board chair shall report, in writing, to the Academic Senate and the President, the number of cases heard during that academic year, and the disposition of each such case.

Membership

One tenure-track faculty member from each college, and one tenure-track member from Student Affairs, all appointed by the chair of the Academic Senate for two-year terms. Two student members selected by ASI, with no less than junior standing and three consecutive quarters of attendance at Cal Poly preceding appointment. The Fairness Board chair is elected by the Board.

-13-
ACADEMIC SENATE FAIRNESS BOARD PROCESS

Unresolved problem exists between student and the university.



Student is encouraged to go to the Counseling Center and to his/her advisor for the purpose of defining and clarifying the problem and achieving objectivity.



Student attempts to resolve the problem with appropriate party (e.g. instructor of record) and appropriate line of authority (e.g. instructor's department head/chair).



Student feels that problem has not been resolved and consults with chair of the Fairness Board.



Student prepares a letter to the Fairness Board indicating his/her problem and submits it to the Board's chair. The letter should:

- (a) identify the course, section, term, and instructor of record
- (b) state complaint and redress sought
- (c) indicate witnesses that may be called
- (d) include copies of relevant documents such as course grade determination handout, exams, papers, statements of support made by others, etc.



Fairness Board reviews complaints and declares complaint to have:

<u>MERIT</u>	<u>NO MERIT</u>
Board requests written response from instructor and schedules a hearing. If a resolution to the problem presents itself, the hearing may be terminated. If no resolution seems satisfactory to the Board and the principals, the hearing will lead to the Board making a recommendation to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.	Student may rebut with new evidence. <div style="text-align: center;"><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"><div style="text-align: center;">↓ MERIT</div><div style="text-align: center;">↓ NO MERIT</div></div></div>