

Adopted: April 9, 1996

ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California

AS-453-96CC/
RESOLUTION ON
STANDARDIZING COURSE UNITS

Background Statement: In January 1994, the Curriculum and Calendar Task Force was appointed and charged with "establishing principles for baccalaureate programs across campus, constructing a template within which the programs will revise their curricula, integrating the co-curriculum with the baccalaureate degree, and guiding the process of change in curriculum and calendar." The extensive work of the Task Force resulted in the publication on September 29, 1995 of the "Commitment to Visionary Pragmatism" document. (Report of the Curriculum & Calendar Task Force, September 29, 1995).

At the beginning of the fall 1995 quarter, Harvey Greenwald, Chair of the Academic Senate, gave the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee the responsibility of generating, from the recommendations found in the Visionary Pragmatism document, action resolutions related to curricular matters. The following resolution is the result of the committee's work.

WHEREAS, Standardizing courses to four or more units will benefit students by allowing them to:
register for fewer courses per term and hence allowing for greater attention to each course while maintaining or increasing the total number of credit units earned in each term
have fewer scheduling complications, books and materials to purchase, papers and projects to accomplish, exams to take, assignments to complete and, in general, barriers towards the completion of their degree
transfer units from semester campuses more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, Standardizing courses to four or more units will benefit faculty by allowing them to:
reduce the number of class preparations per quarter and thus allow for greater attention to each course taught
reduce the number of students they contact per term and hence improve the quality of their interaction with these students
generate greater focus of their time and energy in their instructional activities and therefore enhance their efforts directed towards professional growth, research and service to the University; and

WHEREAS, Standardizing courses to four or more units can occur while preserving:
the total number of units required in a degree
the number of SCU taught per term
the number of faculty members required to teach the curriculum
the number of laboratory units taught and hence Cal Poly's traditional commitment to hands-on education; and

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WHEREAS, **In** a university curriculum, courses with fewer than four units may be desirable in the following cases:

- activity or laboratory classes (PE, Art, Music, etc.)
- classes taught in the supervision mode
- orientation classes
- library classes
- coupled classes (e.g., lecture and labs taken concurrently but listed separately)

therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That all courses taught at Cal Poly, with the exception of those listed above, be standardized to four or more units. Other cases may be appealed to the Academic Senate with appropriate documentation.

Proposed by the Academic Senate
Curriculum Committee
January 26, 1996
Revised April 9, 1996

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CAL PoLy


SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

State of California
Memorandum

Academic Senate

To: Harvey Greenwald
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: April 24, 1996

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: P. Zingg, G. Irvin
T. Zuur, D. Arseneau

Subject: Academic Senate Resolution AS-453-96/CC
Resolution on Standardizing Course Units

The Academic Senate Resolution (AS-453-96/CC) on Standardizing Course Units is approved. In approving this resolution, it is my intention to initiate a process that will explore scheduling templates that minimize class conflicts and create appropriate blocks of time for laboratory instruction. I would appreciate advice from the Academic Senate on acceptable ways to structure the student contact time for the various modes of instruction used on the campus.

Please extend my appreciation to both the Academic Senate and the members of the Academic Senate Curriculum Committee for this significant step toward implementation of the "Commitment to Visionary Pragmatism."