

**This resolution supersedes AS-460-96/PRAIC**

Adopted: April 14, 1998

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

**AS-496-98/PRAIC  
RESOLUTION ON  
EXTERNAL REVIEW**

Background: The purpose of external review is to provide the opportunity for objective outside evaluation of academic programs and departments. For some academic programs, accreditation review serves this purpose. For programs that are not subject to accreditation review, formal external review should occur.

In academic departments that offer more than one degree, external review of the degree programs may be combined into a single review. Non-degree granting academic departments will also undergo external review. Where accreditation review occurs at the College level, this review can be considered as an external review of a program within the college as long as the accreditation report makes substantive comments about individual programs within the College.

Interdisciplinary degree programs may be evaluated by a single external review, as long as the review team is appropriately constituted.

WHEREAS, the Academic Senate approved a resolution (AS460-96/PRAIC) calling for External Review of Academic Programs, which was approved by the President's office, but with a number of procedural changes; and

WHEREAS, the Program Review and Improvement Committee in 1997 further revised the resolution, to improve coordination between accreditation and internal Program Review, but the revised Resolution was returned to the Program Review and Improvement Committee by the Academic Senate Executive Committee, thus leaving the status of the original resolution unresolved; and

WHEREAS, The Commitment to Visionary Pragmatism document has identified external program review as necessary; and

WHEREAS, specialized accreditation is not available for some degree programs or available accreditation may be deemed unnecessary by the department and the Chief Academic Officer; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that all degree programs, in consultation with their college dean, will either undergo accreditation review if there is a suitable accrediting body, or will undergo external review following guidelines for external review, as specified by AS-497-98/PRAIC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the timing of external review be coordinated with the Academic Senate Program Review & Improvement Committee to minimize the workload of the program faculty in preparing for review; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the results of specialized accreditation review or external review will be communicated to the program faculty, the college dean, the Academic Senate Program Review & Improvement Committee, and to the President or his/her designee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that program faculty will have an opportunity to respond in writing to all findings and recommendations raised during the review process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President or his/her designee will report to the program, the program faculty, the college dean, and to the Academic Senate Program Review & Improvement Committee within six months regarding recommendations made to the program during the review process.

Proposed by the Academic Senate Program  
Review and Improvement Committee  
Proposed: January 23, 1998  
Revised: April 14, 1998

MC  
SD  
MT

**RECEIVED**

SEP 22 1998

**CAL POLY**

SAN LUIS OBISPO  
CA 93407

State of California  
**Memorandum**

**Academic Senate**

To: Myron Hood  
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: September 18, 1998

From:   
Warren J. Baker  
President

Copies: Paul J. Zingg  
Harvey Greenwald

Subject: AS-496-98/PRAIC-Resolution on External Review

---

Based upon the recommendations of the Provost's staff, I am pleased to approve the above Senate Resolution of the Academic Senate. This Resolution ensures that all academic programs (whether subject to accreditation review or not) receive external review. This external review will provide important input into our program review process and contribute to our continued program improvement and efficiency.

The Academic Senate and the Program Review and Improvement Committee are to be commended for reviewing this issue and for improving the process to further strengthen the academic quality of our programs.