

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO  
ACADEMIC SENATE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - AGENDA  
May 12, 1981

FOB 24B

3:00 PM

Chair, Tim Kersten  
Vice Chair, Rod Keif  
Secretary, John Harris

- I. Minutes
- II. Announcements
- III. Business Items
  - A. Confirmation of Appointments (Burroughs)
  - B. Resolution on Multi-Criteria Admissions (Kersten) (To be distributed)
- IV. Discussion Items
  - A. "Dead Week" Resolution (Brown)
  - B. Status of Constitutional Revision (Kersten) (Attachment)

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
SAN LUIS OBISPO

CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY

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## PREAMBLE

We, the Faculty of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, in order to meet our academic responsibilities, hereby establish this Constitution for our governance. The responsibilities of the Faculty, the powers necessary to fulfill those responsibilities, and the collegial form of governance, are based on historic academic traditions, which have been recognized by the people of the State of California through their legislature.

## Article I. Membership of the General Faculty

Voting membership of the General Faculty shall consist solely of those persons holding faculty rank and occupying a position in an academic department in the University, personnel in Professional Consultative Services, and full-time lecturers holding one-year appointments in academic departments. Voting membership in General Faculty shall not lapse because of leave of absence. Non-voting membership of the General Faculty shall include all temporary academic personnel not included in the voting membership.

## Article II. Rights, Responsibilities and Powers of the General Faculty

### Section 1. Rights of the General Faculty

The right of academic freedom is necessary for the pursuit and dissemination of truth and the maintenance of a free society. It is the obligation of the General Faculty to insure the preservation of an academic community with full freedom of inquiry and expression, and insulation from political influence.

Voting members of the General Faculty have the right to nominate, elect and recall members of the Academic Senate and the right to call for, participate in and vote at meetings of the General Faculty.

### Section 2. Responsibilities of the General Faculty

The primary responsibility of members of the General Faculty is to seek truth and to encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. To this end, they devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that their evaluation of students reflects true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student. They avoid any exploitation of students for their private advantage, acknowledge significant assistance from them, and protect their freedom of inquiry.

### Section 3. Powers of the General Faculty: Meetings, Initiatives, Referenda, Recall

No regularly scheduled meetings of the General Faculty are provided for, but meetings of the General Faculty may be called by the University President or the Chair of the Academic Senate.

Meetings of the General Faculty also will be scheduled by the Chair of the Academic Senate upon receipt of a meeting request petition bearing the signatures of 10% of the voting membership of the General Faculty and parliamentary procedure is in effect. Positions developed at meetings of the General Faculty must be ratified by initiative.

A majority of the voting members of the General Faculty in attendance at duly called General Faculty meetings is needed to propose an initiative to be put before the entire voting membership of the General Faculty. A majority of those voting in a mail ballot is needed to pass an initiative. Initiatives to amend this Constitution shall be governed by Article IV.

Actions of the Academic Senate are subject to nullification by the voting membership of the General Faculty. Upon receipt of a referendum petition bearing the signatures of 15% of the voting faculty constituency, the Chair of the Academic Senate will conduct a mail ballot of the voting members of the General Faculty. A majority of those voting on a referendum is required to nullify the Academic Senate action in question. Recall of Academic Senators shall be provided for in the Academic Senate Bylaws.

### Article III. The Academic Senate

#### Section 1. Membership

- a. Each school shall elect three (3) senators, plus one (1) senator for each thirty (30) faculty members or major fraction thereof.
- b. The following faculty in Professional Consultative Services (excepting Directors) shall be represented in the Academic Senate by the formula of one (1) senator per each fifteen (15) members or major fraction thereof: (A) Library and Audio-Visual; and (B) Counselors, Physician I, II, and III, and Student Affairs Officers III, IV, and V.
- c. Senators acting in an at-large capacity are: (1) Immediate Past Chair of the Academic Senate and (2) the CPSU Statewide Academic Senators.
- d. Ex-officio, non-voting members: (1) The President of the University or designee, (2) The Vice President for the Academic Affairs or designee, (3) One representative from among the Academic Deans, and (4) President and Vice President of ASI or designees, (5) Dean of Students..

#### Section 2. Powers and Responsibilities of the Academic Senate

Joint decision making and consultation between the administration and the Academic Senate have been recognized by the Legislature of the State of California as the long accepted manner of governing institutions of higher learning and is essential to the educational missions of such institutions. In order to participate fully in the process of joint decisionmaking and consultation with the administration the Academic Senate is empowered to exercise all legislative and advisory powers on matters which affect the General Faculty (e.g. curricula, academic personnel policies, academic standards). Advisory powers shall include, but not be limited to, budget policy, administrative appointments, determination of campus administrative policy, university organization, and facilities use and planning.

It is the responsibility of the Academic Senate to respond to requests for legislative action or advice from the President within forty-five days of the receipt of such requests. On those occasions when the President disapproves Senate Legislation he/she shall inform the Senate in writing within forty-five days from the date of transmittal of the disposition of such matters upon which the Academic Senate has performed in its advisory capacity.

The Academic Senate has the right to present to the Chancellor or the Board of Trustees of the CSUC any matter pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the University. The Academic Senate, through its chairperson, is empowered to express the sentiments of the General Faculty.

The Academic Senate is empowered to adopt Bylaws for its governance.

### Section 3. Officers

The Officers of the Academic Senate are a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and a Secretary elected as provided for in the Bylaws.

### Section 4. Organization

The Academic Senate shall function through its standing and ad hoc committees as well as through floor discussion and debate. Enumeration of the committees and their responsibilities is specified in the Bylaws. Meetings of the Academic Senate and its committees shall be called and conducted as specified in the Bylaws of the Academic Senate. Fifty percent (50%) plus one member of the Academic Senate membership constitutes a quorum.

### Article IV. Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by initiative in a meeting of the General Faculty (Article II, Section 3) or by resolution of the Academic Senate by two-thirds majority (of those present and voting.)

Amendments to this Constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the voting members of the General Faculty. A referendum to amend this Constitution shall be administered by the Chairperson of the Academic Senate within forty-five Calendar days of the receipt of a duly submitted proposal.