RESOLUTION TO SET CAL POLY’S CARBON NEUTRALITY TARGET DATE

WHEREAS, President Armstrong made Cal Poly a Charter Signatory to the Climate Leadership Commitment in 2016, establishing a goal for Cal Poly to achieve net zero carbon emissions from all sources as soon as possible (currently set for 2050); and

WHEREAS, The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined that we have less than ten years to make urgent and unprecedented changes to our carbon emissions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, The Cal Poly Statement on Diversity seeks to develop awareness and empathy for global communities, including people who are from historically and societally marginalized and underrepresented groups; and

WHEREAS, Failure to reduce carbon emissions will result in increased risk of devastating hurricanes, flooding, droughts, fire, and food scarcity for hundreds of millions of people, especially for marginalized and underrepresented global populations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, A 2050 target date arrives too late to prevent needless adverse impacts; and

WHEREAS, The City of San Luis Obispo has set a Carbon Neutrality date of 2035; and

WHEREAS, Cal Poly’s carbon emissions link inextricably with the carbon emissions of the City of San Luis Obispo; and

WHEREAS, The entire University of California system has set a target of 2025 for carbon neutrality, and at least six CSU campuses have all set goals for carbon neutrality by 2030 or sooner, all of which are consistent with the targets of the IPCC report on climate change; and

Adopted: March 9, 2021
WHEREAS, By utilizing the Cal Poly Climate Action Plan dated April 26, 2017, accelerating the decrease of scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions, and accounting for carbon offsets, Cal Poly can soon achieve Carbon Neutrality; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate recommends that Cal Poly update the goal it set for Cal Poly to achieve net zero carbon emissions to 2030 or sooner.

Proposed by: Sustainability Committee
Date: January 5, 2021
MEMORANDUM

To: Thomas Gutierrez
From: Jeffery D. Armstrong

Subject: Response to AS-915-21 Resolution to Set Cal Poly’s Carbon Neutrality Target Date

Date: May 13, 2021
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By way of this memo, I acknowledge the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution and the underlying intention to continue to advance Cal Poly as a higher education leader in sustainability and climate change work. I recognize the reality of the climate crisis and commit to making progress in reducing Cal Poly’s carbon footprint. All of which aligns with Goal 7D of our strategic plan: “Ensure the sustainability of the whole campus environment by making it smart, resilient and carbon neutral.”

Please extend my thanks to the members of the Academic Senate and the Sustainability Committee for their attention to this important matter.