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

AS-368-91/PPC
RESOLUTION ON
ACADEMIC FREEDOM

WHEREAS, The University Self-Study for Accreditation stated:

A clear statement of commitment to academic freedom should appear in the University Catalog where it is equally visible to students, faculty, and interested external constituencies;

therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the following statement be printed in the University Catalog:

Statement on Academic Freedom

Cal Poly recognizes and supports the principle of academic freedom, by which each faculty member has the right to teach, to conduct research, and to publish material relevant to that faculty member's discipline, even when such material is controversial. The university also guarantees to its faculty the same rights shared by all citizens which include: the right to free expression, the right to assemble, and the right to criticize and seek revision of the institution's regulations.

At the same time, the faculty should recognize an equally binding obligation to perform their academic duties responsibly and to comply with the internal regulations of the university. Each faculty member is expected to recognize the right of free expression of other members of the university community; intolerance and personal abuse are unacceptable. Faculty shall not claim to be representing the university unless authorized to do so.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Personnel Policies Committee
May 9, 1991
Revised May 30, 1991
State of California

Memorandum

To: Charles Andrews, Chair
   Academic Senate

From: Warren J. Baker
       President

Date: August 1, 1991

File No.: AS-368-91/PPC

Copies: Robert Koob
         Glenn Irvin
         Jan Pieper
         Mike Suess
         Mary Whiteford

Subject: Resolution on Academic Freedom (AS-368-91/PPC)

It is my pleasure to approve the resolution on academic freedom, AS-368-91/PPC. By copy of this memorandum to Glenn Irvin and Mike Suess, I am requesting that the statement on academic freedom be included in the 1992-94 University Catalog and in the 1991-92 Faculty Handbook.

Please extend my appreciation to the members of the Personnel Policies Committee for developing the resolution.
In response to your memorandum of July 11, 1991, I have reviewed AS-368-91/PPC and have conferred with Jan Pieper, who is a member of the Personnel Policies Committee. At the present time there is no reference to academic freedom in the Faculty Handbook nor in the collective bargaining contract. It is my understanding that in 1971, the CSU Board of Trustees adopted the concept of academic freedom based on the definition from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)—copy enclosed. The Academic Senate resolution is compatible with the AAUP’s definition and was considered by the Personnel Policies Committee when developing its statement for Cal Poly.

It is recommended that the Academic Senate resolution be approved. If you concur, please sign the enclosed memorandum which advises the Academic Senate of your approval and informs me and Glenn Irvin to include the statement on academic freedom into the Faculty Handbook and in the 1992-94 University Catalog.
Memorandum

To: Mike Suess, Associate Director
Personnel and Employee Relations

Date: July 11, 1991

From: Warren J. Baker
President

Subject: ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTION ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Since you work with the Academic Senate Personnel Policies Committee, I assume that you are aware of the contents of the attached resolution on Academic Freedom adopted by the Academic Senate in early June. I would appreciate it if you would review this resolution in terms of consistency of wording with the Faculty Handbook and with the collective bargaining agreement. Please provide Vice President Koob with any changes which you think need to be made as a result of this review.

Attachment
Definition of Academic Freedom (RFSA 71-11)

WHEREAS, There has been some distortion of the concept of academic freedom, the Board of Trustees believes it important to reaffirm its official concept of academic freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the California State Colleges, that the following definition of Academic Freedom, extracted from the "1940 Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors with one of the modifications suggested by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities" indicated in paragraph (c) below, be endorsed as the position of the California State Colleges with respect to academic freedom.

Academic Freedom

(a) The teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his other academic duties, but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

(b) The teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his subject, but he should be careful not to introduce into his teaching controversial matter with has no relation to his subject.

Academic Responsibility

(c) The concept of freedom should be accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility. The college or university teacher is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When he speaks or writes as a citizen, he should be free from institutional censorship or discipline; but his special position in the community impose special obligations. As a man of learning and an educational officer, he should remember that the public may judge his profession and his institution by his utterances. Hence he should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that he is not an institutional spokesman.