

Adopted: November 21, 2000

ACADEMIC SENATE
Of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

San Luis Obispo, California

AS-552-00/IALA
RESOLUTION ON
ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

Background: In 1971, The California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees established an academic planning and program review policy (AP 71-32) requiring each campus to establish criteria and procedures for planning and developing new programs and conduct regular reviews of existing programs. CSU Executive Order No. 595 calls for “regular periodic reviews of general education policies and practices in a manner comparable to those of major programs. The review should include an off-campus component.” CSU Executive Order No. 729 also calls for periodic reviews of centers, institutes, and similar organizations. These policies have been reaffirmed in The Cornerstones Report and in the Cornerstones Implementation Plan. In 1992 Cal Poly adopted the Academic Program Review and Improvement Guidelines establishing procedures for the conduct of academic program reviews. These procedures and recommendations for external reviews of programs have since been modified. Currently, the information requested from programs that undergo internal review includes descriptions of educational goals, instructional designs and methods, assessment methods and the data so collected, and the procedures for utilizing the collected information.

In 1999, the Provost appointed and charged the Task Force on Institutional Accountability and Learning Assessment “to propose a systematic and coordinated approach to addressing academic (and larger institutional) accountability and assessment issues” consistent with our institutional mission and values. The need to build upon, integrate and implement the perspective and approaches contained in existing Cal Poly documents, and the desire to keep these approaches clear, concise and simple were also emphasized. The revised academic program review process drafted by the Task Force, and attached to this resolution, is submitted for your consideration.

WHEREAS: The CSU has established policies requiring periodic

review of the following academic programs: major programs, graduate programs, and general education. These policies have been reaffirmed in The Cornerstones Report, the Cornerstones Implementation Plan, and The CSU Accountability Process.

WHEREAS: Cal Poly's Academic Senate has also established procedures and guidelines for the conduct of academic program reviews, as evidenced by Senate resolutions: Academic Program Reviews (AS-383-92), Academic Program Review and Improvement Guidelines, Academic Program Review and Improvement Guidelines Change (AS-425-94), External Review (AS-496-98) and Procedures for External Review (AS-497-98), Program Efficiency and Flexibility (AS-502-98), Program Review and Improvement Committee Bylaws Change(AS-523-99).

WHEREAS: The implementation of the Academic Senate resolutions on academic program review has resulted in a duplication of processes and inefficient use of resources.

WHEREAS: An effective academic program review should recognize program distinctiveness and different disciplinary approaches to student learning.

WHEREAS: An effective academic program review should also include the direct participation of the Deans, as recently noted in by the WASC Visiting Team in the WASC Visiting Team Final Report.

WHEREAS: Self-studies of interest and significance to the faculty are more conducive to program improvement than are formulaic exercises in compliance.

WHEREAS: Accreditation processes conducted by highly respected national agencies for 27 of the Cal Poly Academic Programs may already provide all the essential requirements of program review, including learning outcomes and accountability with respect to program goals; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That all Cal Poly programs with accreditation or recognition review processes, which cover the essential elements of academic program review in accord with any CSU and Cal Poly mandated requirements should be able to fulfill all IALA program review requirements, using the same accreditation documents; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That the Provost, in consultation with the college

dean, the program administrator, and the Chair of the Academic Senate (or designee) determine whether the accreditation process covers the essential elements of academic program review in accordance with any CSU or Cal Poly mandated requirements; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate accept and adopt the academic program review process proposed in the “Report on Institutional Accountability: Academic Program Review.”

Proposed by: The Task Force on Institutional Accountability and Learning Assessment (IALA)

Date: October 3, 2000

Revised: November 21, 2000