

ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

AS-73-79/Ad Hoc
December 4, 1979

RESOLUTION ON ACADEMIC MINORS

Background: Upon receiving several departmental requests in 1978-1979 to initiate minors, the Curriculum Committee of the Academic Senate asked the Chair of the Academic Senate to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Minors to recommend criteria for evaluating proposed minors. While preparing said criteria, the Ad Hoc Committee determined: 1) that there was insufficient consultation with elected faculty representatives concerning minors prior to March 15, 1978, when then President Kennedy approved the revisions in CAM 411 creating academic minors, and 2) that the revisions in CAM 411 approved by the President were not inserted into the many CAM binders in various departments around campus thereby limiting the implementation of the new policy on minors.

In addition to devising criteria for evaluating proposed minors, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the Academic Senate fully debate the wisdom of having minors at Cal Poly on the grounds that belated consultation is better than no consultation at all.

1. Resolution to Endorse the Concept of Minors:

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, endorses the concept of optional minors at California Polytechnic State University.

2. Resolution to Endorse CAM 411 with Recommended Revision

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, endorses CAM Section 411 as revised and recommends that it be implemented.

CAM 411 (3) Minor

No minor is required for the bachelor's degree.

A minor is a formal aggregate of classes in a specific subject area designed to give a student documented competency in a secondary course of study. In contrast to options and concentrations it stands alone and is distinct from and outside the student's degree major. It is intended that the minor will be completed along with the requirements for the bachelor's degree. The student's transcript will certify completion of the minor.

The minor consists of 24 to 30 quarter units, of which at least half must be upper division. Twelve or more of the units in the minor must be specified courses with the remainder, if any, to be chosen from an appropriate list.

Minors require the same academic review process and justification in terms of purpose, resources, need, etc., as do options and concentrations.

3. Resolution to Endorse Criteria for Minors:

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, endorses the criteria for evaluating proposed minors.

The recommended University criteria for evaluating proposed minors are the following:

1. Clarification and specification of the competencies to be achieved in the minor.
2. Specification of the methods by which competencies are to be documented.
3. Review of the needed and available resources (staff, library, equipment) required to offer the minor.
4. If the unit proposing a minor is not an academic department, there must be specification of the composition of the group or committee that is sponsoring the minor. (This item is particularly important for interdisciplinary minors.)
5. External validation of minors where appropriate. (This item is important for any proposed minors which lack a qualified reviewing body on campus.)
6. The extent of student interest in the proposed minor.
7. Projected enrollment in the minor for the first, third, and fifth years of its existence.
8. Specification of possible negative impacts the proposed minor could have on existing programs in the curriculum.