

ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

AS-141-82/PPC
September 28, 1982

RESOLUTION ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Background: Cal Poly does not have a faculty code of ethics. It is generally recognized throughout the academic profession that, for a variety of reasons such a code is desirable. Furthermore, President Baker has requested that the Academic Senate consider the formulation of such a code for Cal Poly. In reviewing other established codes, the Personnel Policies Committee believes that the Code of the American Association of University Professors covers in general all of the pertinent concepts, and, accordingly, recommends that this code be adopted at Cal Poly, with the change in wording to replace "he" by "he/she."

WHEREAS, Members of the academic profession have unique responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that a statement of our professional ethics will support existing standards and practices of faculty with respect to integrity and ethics; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the following be accepted as a code of ethics for Cal Poly faculty and that it be placed in the Faculty Handbook, with a footnote to the effect that it is the 1966 AAUP Code modified to replace "he" by "he/she."

APPROVED

November 30, 1982

- I. The professor, guided by a deep conviction of worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge recognizes the special responsibilities placed upon him/her. His/her primary responsibility to his/her subject is to seek and state the truth as he/she sees it. To this end he/she devotes his/her energies to developing and improving his/her scholarly competence. He/she accepts the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. He/she practices intellectual honesty. Although he/she may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise his/her freedom of inquiry.
- II. As a teacher, the professor encourages the free pursuit of learning in his/her students. He/she holds before them the best scholarly standards of his/her discipline. He/she demonstrates respect for the student as an individual, and adheres to his/her proper role as intellectual guide and counselor. He/she makes every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that his/her evaluation of students reflects their true merit. He/she respects the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student. He/she avoids any exploitation of students for his/her private advantage and acknowledges significant assistance from them. He/she protects their academic freedom.
- III. As a colleague, the professor has obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. He/she respects and defends the free inquiry of his/her associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas he/she shows due respect for the opinions of others. He/she acknowledges his/her academic debts and strives to be objective in his/her professional judgment of colleagues. He/she accepts his/her share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of his/her institution.
- IV. As a member of his/her institution, the professor seeks above all to be an effective teacher and scholar. Although he/she observes the stated regulations of the institution, provided they do not contravene academic freedom, he/she maintains his/her right to criticize and seek revision. He/she determines the amount and character of the work he does outside his/her institution with due regard to his/her paramount responsibilities within it. When considering the interruption or termination of his/her service, he/she recognizes the effect of his/her decision upon the program of the institution and gives due notice of his/her intentions.
- V. As a member of his/her community, the professor has the right and obligations of any citizen. He/she measures the urgency of these obligations in the light of his/her responsibilities to his/her subject, to his/her students, to his/her profession, and to his/her institution. When he speaks or acts as a private person he/she avoids creating the impression that he/she speaks or acts for his/her college or university. As a citizen engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, the professor has a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.