

Adopted: July 16, 1992

**ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California
AS-392-92/Russell**

**RESOLUTION ON
PROGRAM REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Background Statement; On June 4, 1992, the co-chair of the Program Review and Improvement Committee (PRAIC), Charles T. Andrews, informed department heads/chairs that their materials for review must be submitted to the PRAIC by June 15, 1992. By the time that memo made it through the campus mail and into the department mailboxes, it was already June 8. Thus department heads were expected to compile their materials and organize them into some cogent and presentable form in only one week. The difficulties of that task were exacerbated given that June 8 was Monday of finals week--'a time when faculty are at their busiest. In addition, many departments were given virtually no warning before they were asked to meet with the PRAIC. The committee notified the dean's office for the School of Liberal Arts late Thursday afternoon of June 18 that the school's degree-granting programs would be reviewed on Monday, June 22. Additionally, many department heads and nearly all of the faculty are out of town during the summer. As a result, some department heads could not personally represent their departments during this process; They had been forced to respond to the PRAIC through proxies, telephone calls, and FAXes.

By way of comparison, under "normal" conditions one would never consider hiring a new faculty member on the basis of a written resume and long-distance telephone conversations. On the contrary, it would require substantive research, exhaustive consultation and live interaction before conclusions were made. It is hoped, we would not radically restructure our entire university with a process that is less rigorous, more hurried, and infinitely more casual. That is not to say that any particular recommendation of the PRAIC is inherently wrong or ill-founded. There is considerable food for thought contained in this ambitious report and I am confident that many of the PRAIC's conclusions (even some of the "painful" ones) will be shown to be accurate, imaginative, and insightful. I am ready to consider any recommendation but am unwilling to adopt a given recommendation without further rigorous scrutiny. Before we start up our institutional chain saw and begin pruning, we better be absolutely sure that we know what and where we are cutting!

Given my concerns, I am submitting the following resolution.

Resolution on Program Review and
Improvement Committee Findings and
Resolutions
AS-392-92/Russell

WHEREAS, The Program Review and Improvement Committee was only allotted six weeks to initiate and complete a process that consisted of many steps, including the following; (1) requesting information and resource materials; (2) evaluating those materials; (3) arriving at preliminary conclusions; (4) consulting with faculty; (5) revising conclusions as they saw fit; and (6) drafting a report; and

WHEREAS, Six weeks is too short a time period to research in depth almost any substantive or complex issue; and

WHEREAS, The department heads/chairs were given inadequate time to consolidate and submit materials for review; and

WHEREAS, Since the most critical consultations and discussions occurred in the summer quarter when many department heads/chairs and most of the faculty have been largely unavailable during this process; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Executive Senate of the Academic Senate acknowledge receipt of the report of the Program Review and Improvement Committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That in acknowledging receipt of the report, the Executive Committee does not implicitly endorse each specific finding or recommendation; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be appended to the Program Review and improvement Committee report when it is submitted to the university administration.

Proposed by:
Craig Russell, Academic Senate
Secretary
July 16, 1992

State of California
MEMORANDUM

To: Jack D. Wilson, Chair
Academic Senate

Date: October 6, 1992

File No.:

Copies: R. Koob

From: Warren J. Baker
President

Subject: Academic Senate Resolution on Program Review and Improvement Committee
(AS-392-92)

I want to formally acknowledge the subject resolution and report, findings, and recommendations of the Program Review and Improvement Committee which you forwarded in July. The Academic Senate and the committee are to be commended for the extensive time and effort which went into this task. The issues and principles which the committee identified are extremely important to the university and its planning efforts.

The vice president of Academic Affairs and colleges have already utilized much of the information in planning for changes and will continue to do so.

Please express my appreciation to all those involved for a job well done.