

Adopted: November 18, 1997

**ACADEMIC SENATE
Of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

**AS-485-97
RESOLUTION ON
SPORTS COMPLEX**

- WHEREAS, The Academic Senate recognizes the need for new sports facilities at Cal Poly, including playing and practice fields and a baseball stadium; and
- WHEREAS, The Introduction to the "Campus Master Plan" document dated 4/28/92 states that "At a fundamental level the primary function of the physical environment of the campus is the [sic] support and enhance the instructional and scholarly agendas of the university; and
- WHEREAS, The plan for the Cal Poly Sports Complex in its present configuration fails to provide adequate buffers to protect wetlands that serve as habitats for 33 documented species of wild waterfowl; and
- WHEREAS, The present configuration will cause unnecessary adverse impacts to critical Biological Sciences Department fish and wildlife teaching resources as specified in a letter to the administration signed by 27 out of 30 Biological Sciences Department faculty on March 7, 1997 and reaffirmed in the "Preliminary Biological Study of Impacts of Cal Poly Sports Complex" of October 29, 1997; and
- WHEREAS, The March letter from the Biological Sciences Department faculty recommends 200 yards minimum buffer from Shephard reservoir and 100 yards minimum buffer from Smith reservoir; and
- WHEREAS, San Luis Obispo County ordinances require at least a 50 foot buffer between any development and a wetland; and
- WHEREAS, The present configuration of the Cal Poly Sports Complex plan places a road within 25 feet, a parking lot within 40 feet, and a softball stadium within 75 feet of Smith Reservoir wetlands; and
- WHEREAS, The present configuration provides for open space now designated as a picnic area that could accommodate a shift of location of the softball field away from Smith reservoir; and

WHEREAS, A university educating students in Natural Resources Management, City and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture, Agriculture, and Biological Sciences should maintain a higher and not a lower standard of environmental responsibility than other developers; and

WHEREAS, Members of the university community have made know their concerns about adequate wetland buffers and have made suggestions for alternative configurations since the beginning of the EIR process; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate demand that the administration instruct the designers of the Sports Complex to shift the location of the softball stadium and to either reduce, eliminate or move the parking lot and access road so as to provide at least 100 yards buffer from Smith and Shephard reservoirs; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate commend the Biology Advisory Committee for its preliminary report and that the university commit itself to mitigating past, present and future environmental damage resulting from the building of the Sports Complex; and, be it further

RESOLVED: That the university administration, in conjunction with the Academic Senate, appoint a university committee to monitor the progress of the environmental mitigations and issue periodic reports to the Academic Senate and Cal Poly community.

Proposed by: Richard Kranzdorf and Steven Marx

Date: October 27, 1997

Revised: November 7, 1997

Revised: November 18, 1997

State of California
M e m o r a n d u m

To: Anny Morrobel-Sosa, Chair
Academic Senate

Date: December 17, 1997

From: Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: Paul J. Zingg
Frank Lebens
John McCutcheon

Subject: **Response to Academic Senate Resolution on Sports
Complex (AS-485-97)**

Academic Senate Resolution AS-485-97 makes several key points about the proposed sports complex that I wish to address.

First, the Resolution recognizes the need for new sports facilities at the University, including both all purpose recreation fields and competitive venues for intercollegiate softball and baseball. This recognition supports both the decision of the ASI to help fund the project and the long-range planning designs of Athletics and Campus Planning.

Second, the Resolution underscores an environmental vision for the University that recognizes our responsibility to develop an understanding of environmental issues in our students. How we manage the development of the sports complex, and how we balance the campus build-out with environmental concerns, can be an instructive opportunity for our students and a statement of our commitment to protect the natural resources of the campus.

Third, the Resolution appropriately commends the Biological Sciences Department's Advisory Committee for its report on the sports complex. The report's focus on both on-site and off-site mitigation strategies emphasizes a larger environmental vision for the campus that I endorse. This report and the ad hoc committee which produced it will play key and on-going roles in the development of the sports complex and other environmental mitigations on the campus.

Fourth, the Resolution suggests a different location for the softball field than presently configured. Although the Biological Sciences Department's report noted above, which the Senate Resolution endorses, does not call for such a move, I will ask Vice President Frank Lebens and the design team to review the feasibility of this suggestion with appropriate parties. Any reconsideration of the site for the softball field, though, must encompass such factors not mentioned in the Resolution as the integrity and cost of the entire project, ground conditions, ADA regulations, NCAA competitive guidelines, space utilization efficiencies, access to campus farm units, the picnic area, parking, and the environmental impact studies that have already been completed, reviewed, and approved.

Fifth, I believe that the Senate Resolution, in conjunction with the initial Environmental Impact Report, the Final Environmental Impact Report, the Report of the Biological Sciences Advisory Committee, and the careful reviews of the project by Campus Planning, the ASI, the CSU Board of Trustees, and the project consultants, will contribute to the design and development of a coherent, integrated, multi-use recreational facility that will be environmentally sensitive, responsibly funded, and widely used.