

Adopted: May 15, 2001

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, California**

**AS-566-01/IC**

**RESOLUTION ON  
COMMENCEMENT**

- 1 WHEREAS, Cal Poly maintains high academic standards and integrity; and  
2  
3 WHEREAS, Commencement is a ceremony for the conferring of a degree marking the completion of  
4 all academic requirements (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary); therefore, be it  
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6 RESOLVED: That students shall be made aware that participation by students who are not scheduled to  
7 complete all degree requirements is contradictory to the spirit of academic integrity and of  
8 the commencement ceremony; and be it further  
9  
10 RESOLVED: That it shall be the policy of Cal Poly that for a student to participate in graduation  
11 ceremonies, the student must satisfy at least one of the following:  
12 1. The student shall have completed all degree requirements and not have participated in  
13 a graduation ceremony previously.  
14 2. The student shall currently be enrolled in classes that would complete all of that  
15 student's degree requirements.  
16 3. The student shall be registered for classes for the following term that would allow the  
17 student to complete all of his/her degree requirements;  
18  
19 and be it further  
20  
21 RESOLVED: That Cal Poly's administration, in consultation with the Academic Senate, develop a  
22 timeline to support and implement this resolution.


Proposed by: Academic Senate Instruction Committee  
Date: February 5, 2001  
Revision: May 15, 2001

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

**CAL POLY**

**To:** Unny Menon, Chair  
Academic Senate

**Date:** December 7, 2001

**From:** Paul J. Zingg   
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Copies:** Warren J. Baker  
David Conn  
Euel Kennedy  
Thomas Zuur  
Robert Detweiler  
Kenneth Barclay  
Kimi Ikeda

**Subject:** Amended Response to Senate Resolution As-566-  
01/IC—Resolution on Commencement

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As we discussed with President Baker, he has reconsidered his initial response to the Academic Senate Resolution on Commencement. In his initial response, as you may recall, he indicated his support of the spirit and intent of the Resolution, but raised concerns regarding its implementation in the face of impending budget cuts and limited resources. It is the President's decision now to endorse fully the policy recommended by the Academic Senate for student participation eligibility in Commencement ceremonies, effective with the 2002-03 academic year. The first Commencement exercise for which the new criteria would be applicable is Fall, 2002.

The new participation guidelines will be published in the next catalog, the quarterly class schedules, and through other means to notify students, department heads/chairs, and evaluators of this decision. The new policy is as follows:

“That it shall be the policy of Cal Poly that for a student to participate in graduation ceremonies, the student must satisfy at least one of the following:

1. The student shall have completed all degree requirements and not have participated in a graduation ceremony previously.
2. The student shall currently be enrolled in classes that would complete all of that student's degree requirements.
3. The student shall be registered for classes for the following term that would allow the student to complete all of his/her degree requirements.”

Unny Menon  
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Implementation of this policy will initially focus on informing students about it. Once we have fully implemented the DegreeWorks software, we will develop a mechanism for enforcing it, most likely through a cooperative effort among departments, colleges, and the Office of Academic Records. Since it is unlikely that we will ever choose to escort students and their families out of the ceremony itself, we will likely concentrate on ensuring that only eligible students are listed in the Commencement Bulletin in order to further reinforce this policy.