

Adopted: May 25, 1989

ACADEMIC SENATE
OF
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California

Background statement: In 1983-1984 the CSU Task Force Report on Foreign Language Requirement recommended that the system establish a graduation requirement equivalent to two semesters of lower division foreign language instruction, to be applied to students in all disciplines.

The ASI Student Senate of California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, opposed the requirement in Resolution #84-08 (November 30, 1983); the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Academic Senate likewise opposed the requirement in its Resolution AS-155-84/IC (January 31, 1984). The requirement was not implemented.

On April 15, 1988, the CSU Foreign Language Council approved a proposed new Foreign Language Baccalaureate Requirement involving an exit examination, not specifically course work. The FLC agreed to await the release of a "needs assessment" to be completed by the Office of the Chancellor before submitting the new proposal to the CSU Academic Senate. On November 17, 1988, the FLC-CSU unanimously passed the motion: "The FLC-CSU shall undertake immediately a campaign to cause the CSU to adopt and implement the proposed CSU Foreign Language Baccalaureate Requirement adopted unanimously by the FLC at its meeting in Sacramento on April 15, 1988."

The FLC-CSU believes that the need for a foreign language exit requirement has become more acute in the interim; that the CSU is at a disadvantage in Intersegmental Committee deliberations on foreign languages in view of the absence of a foreign language requirement; and further, that the absence of a foreign language exit requirement is a serious anomaly in view of the recently-implemented CSU foreign language admission requirement.

A Committee on Testing was established to accelerate the dissemination of information about competency-based examinations, as well as the training of CSU foreign language faculty in such procedures. A proposed implementation schedule for the proposed requirement would hold entering freshmen to the requirement in 1992; freshmen and sophomores in 1993; freshmen, sophomores and juniors in 1994, and all CSU students in 1995. Such phasing-in would additionally permit foreign language departments to prepare for the implementation of the requirement and to develop methods in consultation with community colleges for assisting upper-division transfer students.

AS-319-89/IC

**RESOLUTION ON
FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXIT REQUIREMENT**

- WHEREAS, The needs assessment to be performed by the Office of the Chancellor has not yet been completed; and
- WHEREAS, Proficiency examinations necessarily lead to additional course work in the prescribed subject for most students; and
- WHEREAS, Curricula on this campus are typically heavily encumbered; and

**RESOLUTION ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXIT REQUIREMENT
(AS-319-89/IC)**

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WHEREAS, Proficiency examinations in foreign languages necessarily focus on mechanical aspects of the language rather than the larger values such as cultural knowledge and sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, Proficiency examinations in foreign languages are typically of a low and perhaps insignificant level or require considerable course work to pass (which would pose enormous quantitative and qualitative problems for our curriculum); and

WHEREAS, Justifiable emphases on foreign language can be accommodated via general education requirements; and

WHEREAS, Many programs on this campus are impacted and thousands of otherwise qualified students are denied admission to this University, and such a proficiency examination would impede the flow of students through our programs; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University strongly disfavor the addition of a proficiency requirement in foreign language for graduation and that the statewide Academic Senators of California Polytechnic State University be strongly urged to oppose such a requirement at the system level.

Proposed By:
Instruction Committee
March 17, 1989

Memorandum

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JUN 2 1989

CAL POLY
SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

To : Charles T. Andrews, Chair
Academic Senate

Date : June 1, 1989

File No.:

Copies : Malcolm Wilson

From : Warren J. Baker
President



Subject: **ACADEMIC SENATE RESOLUTIONS**

This will acknowledge your memo of May 26 with which you forwarded the four resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate at its May 25, 1989 meeting.

Disposition of the Academic Senate resolutions are as follows:

1. Resolution on Foreign Language Exit Requirement (AS-319-89/IC)

The position of the Academic Senate is appreciated. In addition to the direction which it gives to the Statewide Academic Senators, the perspective of the Academic Senate will be used by me and other University personnel in discussions on this issue as appropriate.

2. Resolution on Academic Calendars (AS-320-89/IC)

The endorsements of the Academic Calendars by the Academic Senate is appreciated. I also understand the concerns with regard to Saturday examinations and encourage the Academic Senate to pursue any alternatives for this as academic calendars for 1992-93 and beyond are developed.

3. Resolution on Accreditation Guidelines (AS-321-89/IC)

The position of the Academic Senate with regard to Accreditation Guidelines is appreciated, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs will utilize the Academic Senate's perspective in responding to the correspondence from the Chancellor's Office (AAPP 89-15).

4. Resolution on Proposal to Establish the CIM Center (AS-322-89)

The resolution with regard to the establishment of the CIM Center will be utilized by the University as this proposal moves forward.