

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

AS-653-07

**RESOLUTION ON
*FOCUS THE NATION***

1 WHEREAS, In May 2003, the Academic Senate endorsed the Talloires Declaration,
2 committing Cal Poly to a ten-point program of promoting sustainability in
3 education; and
4

5 WHEREAS, on January 23, 2007, the Academic Senate approved a set of learning objectives
6 for Cal Poly students, one of which reads as follows: “Make reasoned decisions
7 based on an understanding of ethics, a respect for diversity, and an awareness of
8 issues related to sustainability”; and
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10 WHEREAS, Addressing the threats of global warming and climate change has become a
11 crucial priority in educating students about sustainability; and
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13 WHEREAS, *Focus the Nation* is one way that colleges and universities can use their
14 educational mandates to motivate their students and others to address these
15 threats; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, in conjunction with colleges, universities, and high
18 schools across the country, will organize a symposium about “Global Warming
19 Solutions for America” on or around January 31 2008; therefore be it
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21 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly endorse the following statement and course
22 of action formulated by the national *Focus the Nation* organizing committee:
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24 Global warming poses a serious threat to people and natural
25 systems across the planet. Public and private policy decisions
26 about global warming this decade will have impacts lasting for
27 generations. To focus the nation’s attention on this crucial
28 issue, [Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo,] in conjunction with
29 colleges, universities, and high schools across the country, will
30 organize a symposium about ‘Global Warming Solutions for
31 America’ on or around January 31 2008. On that day, faculty
32 are strongly encouraged to travel with their classes to attend
33 scheduled programs about climate change or to discuss it with
34 their own students. The symposium program committee will
35 work with interested faculty to develop appropriate material for

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their classes and to insure that diverse disciplines are represented in symposium panels and workshops.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Sustainability Committee
Date: January 24, 2007
Revised: January 31, 2007
Revised: February 14, 2007

Rationale:

The threats of global warming and climate change are becoming more manifest every day. Our patterns of energy production and consumption need to undergo profound transformation within the next decade to avert possible catastrophic consequences by the end of the century. Educational institutions are obliged to join government, businesses, community organizations and individuals in raising awareness of the threats and searching for ways to bring about these transformations.

Focus the Nation is one way that colleges and universities can use their educational mandates to contribute to such an effort. Its goals are to shift the national conversation about global warming from fatalism to determination and to create a national educational dialog on policy options by involving 1,000 participating schools, 5,000 organizers, 20,000 presenters, and 3 million students in discussions of “Global Warming Solutions for America” on a single date, January 31 2008, just before the first 2008 presidential primaries. [See <http://www.focusthenation.org>]


At Cal Poly, an organizing committee representing students and faculty from all colleges is developing programs culminating in this day’s events. The committee’s work will be facilitated by the endorsements of Cal Poly administration, faculty and student organizations. Such endorsements have already been provided by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and by the presidents of Lewis & Clark College, The University of the South, Smith College, and Mount Holyoke College, among others.

In May 2003, the Academic Senate endorsed the Talloires Declaration, committing Cal Poly to a ten-point program of promoting sustainability in higher education. The Senate’s endorsement was followed by President Baker’s signing the Declaration in August of 2003. The Declaration has served as a statement of commitment and a guide to action for Cal Poly’s sustainability programs. Though more specific in scope, the endorsement of the resolution of support for *Focus the Nation* will similarly signify commitment and lead to action. The statement submitted herein for endorsement has been formulated by the national *Focus the Nation* organizing committee.

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

To: Bruno Giberti
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: March 26, 2007

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: W. Durgin

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-653-07
Resolution on *Focus the Nation*

This memo acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled resolution.