

(#06-06/07-EX)

Resolution on University Budgetary Priorities
#06-06/07-EX – September 26, 2006

WHEREAS, The University is in severe financial crisis, in large part due to its inability to recruit and retain students and their associated FTES, and

WHEREAS, The President of the University has made one-time campus-wide reallocations to the FY2006-07 base budget, which include increased allocations for the Divisions of Student Affairs and Administrative Affairs, in a year of continued declining budgets, and

WHEREAS, The President of the University has reduced the FY2006-07 allocation to the Office of Academic Affairs by \$425,000 to fund these increases, and

WHEREAS, These reallocations were made without timely notice (reallocations were announced only two weeks before the schedule for spring semester was to be finalized), necessitating that the total budgetary impact on Academic Affairs be absorbed in the spring semester, causing severe hardship, and

WHEREAS, Academic Affairs represents the principal and primary mission of the University, all other services being supportive of that central mission, and

WHEREAS, “Instructional Effectiveness” was identified in the 2005 Noel–Levitz report as being students’ most important priority on campus, followed closely by “Academic Advising”; while “Campus Life” and “Service Excellence” were identified as less important, and

WHEREAS, The direct result of the OAA budget cuts will be an immediate and profound loss of educational quality and instructional effectiveness at the University, and

WHEREAS, Any attrition in student retention due to erosion of students’ most important priorities on campus will cause further FTES decline, resulting in further budget cuts, resulting in a downward spiral, and

WHEREAS, The direction of the University as reflected in the current budget priorities is so contrary to the University community’s vision of providing an excellent education that it is causing severe divisiveness in the University community, and

WHEREAS, While some effect on academic programs is to be expected in a time of continuously shrinking budgets, those effects must be kept to a minimum and remain a last resort after all other sources of funds have been exhausted; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University completely rejects the re-appropriation of \$425,000 away from the Office of Academic Affairs to support non–FTES generating, nonacademic programs which, while beneficial and necessary for the operation of a healthy University, are discretionary with respect to its mission and the current enrollment and financial situation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University invites the President to explain to the Senate his vision of the balance between Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Administrative Affairs, of the core functions and priority of supporting functions of the University, and how this vision will serve to directly improve FTES generation, and thereby the financial position of the University and its ability to continue to provide a superior undergraduate education to its students; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University forwards this resolution to the President of HSU, the Faculty of HSU, and the Associated Students of HSU.

PASSED – September 26, 2006

Merry Schellinger

From: Rollin Richmond [rollinr@humboldt.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2006 11:00 PM
To: Saeed Mortazavi
Cc: Merry Schellinger; Richard C. Vrem; Denice Helwig; Patty Lindley; Carol Terry; Steve Butler; Rob Gunsalus; Anna Kircher; Carl Coffey
Subject: Responses to Senate Resolutions

Dear Saeed:

This is in response to your memoranda of September 27, 2006 containing four resolutions from the Academic Senate.

Resolution on the General University Policy on Distance Education (#27-05/06-EP)

This resolution is a significant improvement over the previous proposal passed by the Senate in August of 2005. I am grateful to Professors Cheyne, Eichstedt, Kornreich, Rafferty, and Burroughs and Ms. van Duzer, and Ms. Wood for their good work in revising and improving this policy. I do not agree with the resolution's recommendation that the University Curriculum Committee work with the Distance Education Coordinator to set priorities for the use of facilities and personnel for the development and implementation of distance education courses. This responsibility lies with department chairs and deans. I note with approval that the Senate will review this policy in two years. Hopefully the successes of distance education over this period will convince some of the current skeptics of the importance of distance education especially at a rural university. I approve this policy even though I continue to have concerns about it.

Reaffirmation of the Statement on Collegiality Adopted by the Academic Senate CSU and the CSU Board of Trustees 1985 (#09-06/07-EX)

I approve this resolution but note with sadness and irony the hypocrisy and lack of collegiality evinced by at least some members of the Senate Executive Committee in their process of bringing it to the Senate. As a response to the University Executive Committee inviting the Chair of the Academic Senate to sit as a member of the University Executive Committee in 2003, the Senate Executive Committee invited the Provost and the President to sit as non-voting members of their executive committee. Both of these administrators have been attending these meetings as frequently as their schedules would allow. This resolution was brought forward to the full Senate at a meeting from which the Provost and President were excluded. This is a violation of just the collegiality the Senate is seeking to reaffirm.

Resolution on University Budgetary Priorities (#06-06/07-EX)

I reject this flawed resolution. It presents an inaccurate picture of the course of budget reductions to various units of the university over the last four years, does not take account of prior reports of budgetary reductions by one of its members to the full Senate, makes assumptions that are not supported by facts, and proposes to make budgetary decisions that are the responsibility of University administrators.

Resolution on the Role of Faculty on Curricular Matters (#07-06/07-EX)

I reject this resolution on the grounds of its ambiguity and potential breadth of application. Any decision having any substantive effect on any aspect of the university's function and role has the potential to affect the quality of education. There is no clear consensus at this university or elsewhere on what amounts to quality in education thus making this resolution grounds for continuing disagreement as well as the potential for wasting valuable faculty time.

Permit me a general observation on resolutions 6, 7 and 9. I do not fathom the motivation of the members of the Senate Executive Committee who brought these resolutions to the Senate. I do understand that these resolutions have and will, regardless of my actions, bring divisiveness to our campus as we face very serious budget difficulties that have been largely ignored by the University for several years. We badly need to work together to create a solution to the

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budgetary problem we face. Spending time, energy and emotion attempting to create divisions between the administrative leaders of the university, its faculty, staff and students will only delay and possibly prevent the development of a solution that will maintain and hopefully improve the quality of the education we provide to our students. I urge all members of the Senate to carefully consider their actions and return to collaboration as the most effective means to resolve our difficulties.

Sincerely, Rollin

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