

(#07-06/07-EX)

Resolution on the Role of Faculty on Curricular Matters

#07-06/07-EX – September 26, 2006

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University reaffirms the basic principle articulated in the *Principles and Policies: Papers of the Academic Senate CSU (ASCSU)* (pp. 51-57), that the faculty has the primary responsibility for curricular decisions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University affirms the unique role of faculty in curricular matters that requires the review and approval of university-wide curriculum alterations by the Academic Senate and University Curriculum Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that all changes which affect the quality of education at Humboldt State University, must go through appropriate curricular bodies; 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.

RATIONALE: According to the AAUP's 1966 *Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities*, governance in higher education should result from cooperation and interdependence between and among the administration, governing board, faculty, and, where appropriate, students. It is clearly accepted that the university's curriculum is the principal concern and responsibility of the faculty. Faculty judgment should normally prevail in the areas of curriculum, subject matter, and method of instruction.

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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