

(#09-06/07-EX)

**Reaffirmation of the Statement on Collegiality Adopted by the Academic Senate  
CSU and the CSU Board of Trustees in 1985**

09-06/07-EX – September 26, 2006

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University reaffirms the statement on collegiality adopted by the Academic Senate CSU and the CSU Board of Trustees in 1985, known as "Report of the Board of Trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on Governance, Collegiality, and Responsibility in the California State University"; 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, the Associated Students of HSU, the Chancellor of the California State University, the CSU Board of Trustees, the Statewide and Campus Academic Senates, the California Faculty Association, and the State Assembly Committee for Higher Education.

**RATIONALE:** The management of universities is a joint responsibility of faculty and administrators. This unique and democratic model is in distinct contrast to the top down management model practiced in the corporate world. The corporate model and its focus on "efficiency" have created a real crisis in higher education that is ultimately detrimental to universities' constituents. Collegiality, like its counterpart democracy, might be inefficient, yet it is ultimately superior to other alternatives. The Faculty of Humboldt State University believes that universities are not corporations and the application of the corporate model is inherently wrong in institutions of higher education. The Faculty of Humboldt State University should have a guaranteed voice in decision-making at Humboldt State University at all levels.

Report of the Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Committee  
On Governance, Collegiality, and Responsibility in the CSU  
Adopted September 1985-Principles and Policies-Papers  
Of the Academic Senate CSU, Volume 1, 1988

**CSU STATEMENT ON COLLEGIALITY**

*To set the standard for the proper relationship among the various constituencies of The California State University, the Board of Trustees adopted the following statement September 18, 1985 after wide consultation with the CSU Academic Senate, university presidents, the California State Student Association, and Chancellor's staff.*

**Academic governance** is a complex web of decision making and responsibility that translates academic goals and values into university policy or action. Authority in the modern public university derives from two quite different sources: (a) from the power vested by law and administrative code in governing boards and administrators and (b) from the knowledge of the subject matter and from the pedagogic expertise of the faculty.

**Collegiality consists** of a shared decision making process and a set of values which regard the members of the various university constituencies as essential for the success of the academic enterprise. It incorporates mutual respect for similarities and for differences-in background, expertise, judgments, and assigned responsibilities; and involves mutual trust based on experience.

**Collegial governance allows** the academic community to work together to find the best answers to issues facing the university. Collegial governance assigns primary responsibility to the faculty for the educational functions of the institution in accordance with basic policy as determined by the Board of Trustees. This includes admission and degree requirements, the curriculum and methods of teaching, academic and professional standards, and the conduct of creative and scholarly activities. Collegiality rests on a network of interlinked procedures jointly devised, whose aim is to assure the opportunity for timely advice pertinent to decisions about curricular and academic personnel matters.

**The governing board**, through its administrative officers, makes sure that there is continual consultation with appropriate faculty representatives on these matters. Faculty recommendations are normally accepted, except in rare instances and for compelling reasons. The collegial process also recognizes the value of participation by the faculty in budgetary matters, particularly those directly affecting the areas for which the faculty has primary responsibility.

**Central to collegiality** and shared decision making is respect for differing opinions and points of view which welcomes diversity and actively sponsors its opinions. The collegium must be the last public bastion of respect for individuals, whether they are members of the faculty, students, staff, alumni, administration, or Board of Trustees.

**The Board of Trustees** wishes to maintain the statewide Academic Senate and campus senates/councils separate and apart from collective bargaining. It is the intention of the Board to maintain its efforts to promote collegiality and to support the continuing efforts of the Academic Senate to preserve collegiality in the CSU.

*NB: This statement is intended to apply to campus academic personnel matters in general and not to apply to individual personnel decisions. Specific cases involving appointment, promotion, and tenure decisions must be decided on their own merits and are not subject to normative statements such as that contained in paragraph 4. The statement should in no way be used in the grievance process as a limitation on the good judgment of a president in any specific case.*

**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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