

**RESOLUTION ON COLLEGIAL GOVERNANCE AND  
CURRICULAR RESPONSIBILITY  
[#09-97/98-EX]**

**WHEREAS,** The Board of Trustees of the California State University has adopted principles relating to collegial governance and curricular responsibility which state, in part:

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 . . . . 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. ["Report of the Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Committee on Governance, Collegiality, and Responsibility in the California State University," adopted September 1985, from Principles and Policies: Papers of the Academic Senate; The California State University; Volume 1, 1988];

and

**WHEREAS,** The Preamble of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the California Faculty Association and the California State University's Board of Trustees, as well as the Humboldt State University Faculty Handbook, reaffirm the principles set forth above; and

**WHEREAS,** In fulfilling its primary responsibility for the educational functions of the institution, the faculty of Humboldt State University acknowledges and embraces its fundamental role in determining degree requirements, curriculum, methods of teaching, and academic and professional standards; and

**WHEREAS,** The faculty of Humboldt State University considers these responsibilities to minimally include, but not be limited to: establishing curriculum that addresses the liberal arts mission of this institution, creating courses of study in individual disciplines that meet standards of academic and professional excellence, determining the most effective learning environment, providing instructors who possess the background and skills appropriate to the subject matter, and maintaining an atmosphere in which the quality of the educational experience remains the fundamental criterion; and

**WHEREAS,** In fulfilling its educational mission and the goals of collegial governance, the faculty of Humboldt State University must be given primary responsibility for any initiatives which address General Education criteria, department core curricula, faculty position descriptions, need for temporary faculty to augment program needs, and class size and mode of instruction; and

**WHEREAS,** It is acknowledged that social, economic and budgetary factors historically and currently influence the operation of the university, and the faculty will continue to seek and offer creative solutions to any challenges such factors may present; and

**WHEREAS,** The faculty of Humboldt State University has received, without consultation, decrees that contradict its fundamental curricular responsibility, and that compromise its ability to engage in meaningful collegial governance; to wit: unit caps on majors; rewriting of permanent faculty position descriptions; FTES and class size mandates, irrespective of the nature of the course or discipline (with budgetary penalties for non-compliance); General Education dictates; restrictions on the contribution of temporary faculty; standardized teaching loads which do not allow for differences in departments and individual courses; and, most offensive to the spirit of collegiality, the message that if faculty do not comply, they will be punished; and

**WHEREAS,** However richly faculty voices may resonate, they seem overwhelmed by a cacophony more directed toward "result" than "quality of experience," such that faculty incentive and its historic creative initiative are being compromised by a preoccupation with fiscal concerns and a "numbers" mentality; and

**WHEREAS,** Our identity as an institution, as reflected in its mission statement and unique curriculum, is centered around the needs of the students and recognition of their individuality, and cannot be homogenized to meet a bald economic mandate; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University reaffirms its belief in the collegial governance process and in the faculty's fundamental curricular responsibility as set forth in Humboldt State University and CSU principles and policies; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University supports the faculty in maintaining its fundamental commitment to educational quality, and adamantly opposes initiatives that would compromise and/or redirect that crucial emphasis; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University decries actions or mandates that undermine the faculty's ability to creatively address the curricular needs of its students, the integrity of its programs, and the personnel required to sustain them; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University deems as unprofessional conduct, with grounds for censure, any attempt to dictate curriculum through manipulation and/or coercion; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University distribute copies of this resolution to the CSU Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, the Chancellor-elect, and the President, Vice-Presidents, and College Deans of Humboldt State University.