

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

(Chairs of the Academic Senates of the CSU: March 8, 2001)

RESOLVED: That the Chairs of the Academic Senates of the California State University reaffirm that responsibility for the academic calendar for each individual campus lies within the purview of the faculty of that campus, as set forth in "Responsibilities of Academic Senates Within a Collective Bargaining Context" and "Collegiality within the California State University System;" and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Chairs of the Academic Senates of the California State University affirm the Academic Senate's primary responsibility for and major voice in determining the academic calendar of the campus; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Chairs of the Academic Senates of the California State University affirm Principle Ten of the Cornerstones document that allows each campus significant autonomy in developing its own mission, identity, and programs, which would include as a major element the campus academic calendar; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be directed to the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, the Academic Senate CSU, individual campus senates, and the individual campus presidents.

RATIONALE:

In a number of documents, the California State University system has defined the role of the faculty and academic senates in determining the academic calendar. This responsibility has been elaborated in "Responsibilities of Academic Senates Within a Collective Bargaining Context," adopted by the Academic Senate CSU in May 1981 and adopted by Chancellor Ann Reynolds on February 9, 1983. It states:

The academic senates/councils shall be consulted by the campus presidents concerning . . . the academic calendar and policies governing the scheduling of classes . . .

This topic is also addressed in "Collegiality in the California State University System," adopted by the Academic Senate CSU in March 1985, and supported in principle by the Board of Trustees in a statement issued in September 1985. The pertinent section reads:

Because the university's curriculum is of central concern to the faculty and because faculty have the primary responsibility in curricular decisions, it follows that faculty should have the major voice in academic policy decisions which closely affect the curriculum, access to the curriculum, or the quality of the curriculum. All of the following are examples of academic policy: . . .

(11) The academic calendar, including the first and last days of instruction and the scheduling of final examinations.

These documents set forth the obligation of campus and system administrations to consult with the faculty and academic senates on the academic calendar. By consultation, we refer to the definition provided in 1982 by Robert Kully, then chair of the statewide academic senate, in response to correspondence from then Chancellor Glenn S. Dumke:

[W]e concur with your understanding of the term 'consultation' as providing a means for the faculty (as a whole or through representatives) to present its judgment in the form of recommendation or analysis to statewide or campus administration. We also agree that 'the opportunity for the faculty to formulate and present such judgment makes clear the need for timely communication,' which we interpret to mean time for full faculty review . . . we understand the process of consultation to mean that Senate recommendations are afforded serious and thorough consideration.

Further, Principle Ten of the Cornerstones document, adopted by the CSU system in 1997, specifies:

The California State University campuses shall have significant autonomy in developing their own missions, identity, and programs, with institutional flexibility in meeting clearly defined system policy goals.

It has been suggested that the sum of \$12,000,000.00 is available in the current CSU budget to assist the six quarter campuses in converting to a semester calendar. Although no official directive or executive order has been issued, the Chancellor has made very clear his desire for a common academic calendar. As a result, some campus administrations currently are pursuing significant revision as though there were an official directive. To date, the faculty and academic senates of these campuses have not been involved in discussions regarding the academic calendar in a manner that would acknowledge their primary responsibility in making such decisions, or satisfy the requirements for consultation referenced in the documents cited above.

APPROVED VIA E-MAIL MARCH 6-8, 2001 BY THE FOLLOWING SENATE CHAIRS, REPRESENTING 22 CAMPUSES OF THE CSU SYSTEM:

Janis Ruiz, CSU Bakersfield
Paul T. Persons, CSU Chico
Cynthia McDermott, CSU Dominguez Hills
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