

Adopted: February 11 2014

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-778-14

**RESOLUTION ON SUPPORTING ASI'S REAFFIRMATION OF CAL POLY SAN LUIS
OBISPO'S COMMITMENT TO THE QUARTER SYSTEM**

- 1 WHEREAS, On December 4, 2013, the ASI Board of Directors unanimously approved ASI
2 resolution #14-02, which reaffirms Cal Poly's commitment to remain on the
3 quarter system; and
4
- 5 WHEREAS, The ASI Board of Directors reaffirmed its commitment on behalf of the students
6 at Cal Poly on the basis of the active role that ASI government took in assisting
7 the 2013 Semester Review Task Force by consulting professionally and
8 productively with students about a possible conversion; and
9
- 10 WHEREAS, ASI also reaffirmed its commitment on the basis of the report from the 2013
11 Semester Review Task Force; and
12
- 13 WHEREAS, The Semester Review Task Force concluded that Cal Poly ought not to convert to
14 the semester system due to several factors, including the estimated high financial
15 cost of converting, the estimated high cost for faculty, staff, and student morale in
16 converting, an inability to substantiate through research the purported benefits for
17 student learning, and lost opportunity costs Cal Poly would suffer, particularly in
18 areas such as student success and graduation rates; and
19
- 20 WHEREAS, ASI resolution #14-02 is consistent with AS-757-13 Resolution on the Semester
21 Review Task Force Findings and worthy of faculty support; therefore be it
22
- 23 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate supports the ASI resolution #14-02 and joins the ASI
24 Board of Directors in reaffirming the commitment to the quarter system; and be it
25 further
26
- 27 RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Chancellor White.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: January 2, 2014

 **STUDENT
GOVERNMENT**
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Jeffrey Armstrong
University President

DATE: December 17, 2013

FROM: Tatiana Prestininzi ^{TP}
Chair of the Board 2013-14

COPIES: Chancellor White
S. Rein
K. Humphrey
M. Maloney
ASI Board of Directors
M. Crawford

SUBJECT: ASI Board of Directors -Resolution #14-02 ASI Board of Directors'
Support to Remain on the Quarter System

On December 4, 2013 the ASI Board of Directors held a special meeting and voted unanimously to approve Resolution #14-02 ASI Board of Directors' Support to Remain on the Quarter System. The ASI Board of Directors voiced their support through Resolution #14-02 and an attachment Reaffirming Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's (SLO) Commitment to the Quarter System.

The ASI Board of Directors took into account the actions taken by the 2012-2013 ASI Board of Directors, the Semester Review Task Force's report, and consulted with members of the Semester Review Task Force before drafting Resolution #14-02 ASI Board of Directors' Support to Remain on the Quarter System.

Please find attached the full language of the Resolution. Thank you for your support of the student voice and your commitment to the campus.

Attachment

Associated Students, Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #14-02

ASI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SUPPORT TO REMAIN ON QUARTER SYSTEM

- WHEREAS: Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Board of Directors is the official voice of Cal Poly students, and
- WHEREAS: In Fall Quarter of the 2012-2013 Academic Year, President Armstrong created the Semester Review Task Force to evaluate the impacts of a possible conversion to a semester system at Cal Poly, and
- WHEREAS: ASI Student Government took an active role that included conducting a conversation-based survey with over 1,000 students that was submitted to the Semester Review Task Force, and
- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors elected to host a campuswide advisory vote, where students demonstrated their passion for the issue with 43.2% of students voting, which broke a Cal Poly record and resulted in 89.8% of students voting in favor of quarters, with overwhelming support for quarters within each academic college, and
- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors approved Resolution #13-03, ASI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' STANCE ON POTENTIAL SEMESTER CONVERSION, which details the process of arriving at the vote and strongly supports remaining on the quarter system, and
- WHEREAS: In Fall Quarter of the 2013-2014 Academic Year, CSU Chancellor White asked for a single sheet of paper outlining Cal Poly's reasoning for support for remaining on the quarter system, and
- WHEREAS: ASI Student Government members drafted REAFFIRMING CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO'S (SLO) COMMITMENT TO THE QUARTER SYSTEM, explaining the primary benefits of the quarter system and the negative impacts of a Cal Poly semester conversion.

THEREFORE

BE IT

RESOLVED: That as the official voice of students, the ASI Board of Directors strongly supports REAFFIRMING CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO'S (SLO) COMMITMENT TO THE QUARTER SYSTEM, and

FURTHERMORE

BE IT

RESOLVED: This resolution will be sent to CSU Chancellor White, President Armstrong, and the Academic Senate to relay student support of remaining on the quarter system through the support of REAFFIRMING CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO'S (SLO) COMMITMENT TO THE QUARTER SYSTEM.

Certified as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 18 day of December, 2013.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 4 day of December 2013.

Attest:



ASI Secretary



Signed:

ASI Chair of the Board



Signed

ASI President

Authored by:

Rachel Kramer, ASI Board of Directors, College of Architecture and Environmental Design

Sarah Griess, ASI Board of Directors, College of Engineering

Myra Lukens, ASI Board of Directors, College of Engineering

Connor Paquin, ASI Board of Directors, College of Engineering

Alexandra Spooner, ASI Board of Directors, College of Science and Mathematics

Zachary Antoyan, ASI Executive Cabinet

REAFFIRMING CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO'S (SLO) COMMITMENT TO THE QUARTER SYSTEM

As recommended by the Cal Poly SLO Presidential Semester Review Task Force (SRTF), Cal Poly SLO should not pursue a conversion from the quarter system to the semester system. The following outlines the primary reasons, as supported by the SRTF:

- Cal Poly SLO has the highest graduation rate out of the entire CSU system. The quarter calendar is a fundamental contributor to our success.
- On the quarter system at Cal Poly SLO, Hispanic and first generation students are not less likely than other students to graduate.
- The quarter system mirrors the fast pace of industry, which better prepares students for internships and careers. Quarter system classes challenge students to hone their time management skills by asking students to continuously produce quality work and study effectively.
- The quarter system offers students greater opportunities to take upper division electives inside and outside of their major. This allows students to obtain multiple majors or minors during the time of their degree program, something that is much more difficult on the semester system, and results in "whole-system thinkers," as mentioned in the Cal Poly SLO Strategic Plan.
- The quarter system offers the opportunity to take a broader spectrum of courses, which enhances interdisciplinary collaboration among students, a requirement for today's professionals. This aligns with the goals of the CSU system regarding preparing students for the workforce.
- CSU students that choose to take online classes are not bound by academic calendars. Therefore, students can take online classes on a different calendar system.
- Students transferring from a community college to Cal Poly SLO are made aware of the quarter system and are provided with numerous opportunities to succeed.
- Cal Poly SLO engineering, a nationally ranked program, uses the quarter calendar to provide classes that are broad engineering "core classes," allowing students to have a more comprehensive engineering expertise.
- Many programs unique to Cal Poly SLO benefit from the quarter system. For example, harvest seasons sync with quarter calendars, allowing students in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences to participate in "Learn by Doing."
- The quarter calendar provides greater opportunity for students to participate in specialty internships. An example is the late start in September, which allows students to work into the summer tourism industry and harvest season.
- Students who must take a leave of absence due to a serious illness, family crisis, financial problems, or other justifiable condition can stay on track more easily on the quarter calendar, as they have additional opportunities to retake the class before the academic year is over. Students that have difficulty getting into a class have more opportunities to enroll before the academic year is over.
- Since the quarter calendar is more flexible than the semester calendar, students who work and participate in clubs and/or athletics can take a lighter course load per quarter and remain on track to graduate.

Cal Poly SLO's uniqueness and specialties are made possible by the quarter system. A switch to the semester system would negatively impact Cal Poly SLO students. As a result, Cal Poly SLO should remain on the quarter system and not convert to the semester system.

State of California
M e m o r a n d u m

CAL POLY
SAN LUIS OBISPO

To: Steven Rein
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: March 24, 2014

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President



Copies: ASI Board of Directors
K. Erz Finken
K. Humphrey
M. Maloney

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-778-14
Resolution on Supporting ASI's Reaffirmation of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Commitment
to the Quarter System

This memo formally acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.

CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO



March 5, 2014

Chancellor Timothy P. White
The California State University
401 Golden Shore, Suite 641
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RE: Associated Students, Inc. and Academic Senate Resolutions Reaffirming California Polytechnic State University's Commitment to the Quarter System

Dear Tim:

Please find attached two resolutions. One is from Cal Poly's Associated Students, Inc. Board, dated December 17, 2013, and the other is from Cal Poly's Academic Senate, dated January 2, 2014. Both resolutions assert a recommitment to the outcome of the semester review process in which Cal Poly engaged during fall quarter 2012. That outcome was a recommendation that Cal Poly not convert to semesters. The student and faculty governance bodies have asked that I forward their resolutions to you.

I would like to take this opportunity to express again my support for students and faculty at Cal Poly who believe the university will benefit more from remaining on quarters than by converting to semesters. Our review process was not only thorough, it was also conducted with professionalism from our faculty, staff, and students, as were the arguments they developed in favor of remaining on quarters.

While our campus constituents were not able to demonstrate conclusively that either quarters or semesters are more conducive to learning, we did learn that our faculty and staff are excited about many current projects, including our upcoming campaign and our commitment to improving graduation rates while maintaining high quality programs. Converting to semesters at this time would significantly impact our ability to make progress with on-going work and goals. Consequently, I concur with the majority of Cal Poly constituents who believe that remaining on quarters will best allow Cal Poly to continually improve.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President

Enclosures

cc: Jason Colombini, ASI President
Steve Rein, Academic Senate Chair
Kathleen Enz Finken, Provost