

Adopted: June 4, 2024

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

AS-978-24

RESOLUTION to Sunset the Custom of “Cal Poly Time” effective Fall Term 2026

Impact on Existing Policy: Will change the scheduling of class times.

1 WHEREAS, Scheduling classes and meetings to begin at 10 minutes or 40 minutes after
2 the hour, is idiomatically known as meeting on “Cal Poly Time”; and
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4 WHEREAS, The use of “Cal Poly Time” for scheduling is a long-standing customary
5 practice on our campus; and
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7 WHEREAS, The history or rationale for the use of “Cal Poly Time” remains elusive; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Any rationale for “Cal Poly Time” that may have existed at one time, no
10 longer appears to have relevance to current campus operations and
11 scheduling; and
12

13 WHEREAS, A survey of Cal Poly faculty (n=381) during the Winter of 2023 found that
14 nearly half of the faculty were in favor of sunseting “Cal Poly Time”, and 25%
15 had no preference either way; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Consultation with University Scheduling and other Offices on campus showed
18 a preference for sunseting “Cal Poly Time;” and
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20 WHEREAS, Consultation with the Instructional Department Heads and Chairs (IDHC)
21 showed that a majority are in favor of sunseting “Cal Poly Time;” and
22

23 WHEREAS, Consultation with Cal Poly Transportation and Parking Services, and the
24 Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee indicated that given this
25 advance notice and adequate time to prepare, sunseting “Cal Poly Time”
26 would not result in operational challenges; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Cal Poly Transportation and Parking Services has communicated to the City of
29 San Luis Obispo Mass Transportation Committee (MTC), and the Regional
30 Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) about this proposal to sunset

31 “Cal Poly” time, thus providing timely allowing MTC and RTAC to build this
32 change into their long-term planning, which is currently underway; and
33

34 WHEREAS, Outreach to Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and the Office of the Registrar
35 indicated that given adequate time to prepare, sunsetting “Cal Poly Time”
36 would not result in operational challenges; and
37

38 WHEREAS, the ASI representative on the Instruction Committee provided feedback from
39 members of the ASI Board that there was no objection to sunsetting Cal Poly
40 time and suggested that starting on the hour better aligns with expectations
41 of employers; and
42

43 WHEREAS, The custom of “Cal Poly Time” creates a mismatch in scheduling meetings
44 among the various communities on the Cal Poly campus and with
45 off-campus entities; and
46

47 WHEREAS, The transition from quarters to semesters provides an opportunity to
48 adjust class scheduling times; and
49

50 WHEREAS, University Scheduling is still developing class scheduling patterns that will
51 optimize the use of instructional facilities and enhance the ability to schedule
52 more classes throughout the day with a greater variety of scheduling
53 patterns; and
54

55 WHEREAS, The proposed change to sunset “Cal Poly Time” for scheduling patterns that
56 start on the hour or on the half-hour will not preclude University Scheduling
57 from creating additional scheduling patterns that may have various starting
58 and ending times to meet the goal of optimizing the use of instructional
59 space; and
60

61 WHEREAS, There are definite advantages to putting the entire campus on the same
62 clock for scheduling; and
63

64 WHEREAS, The Cal Poly Campus Administrative Policy defines the Credit Hour in CAP
65 210.5 . Section 210.5.3 specifies that a credit hour is assumed to be a 50
66 minute (not 60-minute) period of “seat time” during instruction; and
67

68 WHEREAS, CAP 210.5 aligns with CSU Memorandum AA 2011-14: “CSU Definition of
69 Credit Hour” and AS-922-21, AS 896-20 and AS-838-17 reference the “CSU
70 Definition of Credit Hour” as part of the credit hour policy assessment and
71 assurance and to clarify credit hour equivalents for a modalities of course
72 delivery; and
73

- 74 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis
75 Obispo support sunseting the custom of “Cal Poly Time” for class scheduling
76 thereby putting the campus on the same clock; therefore be it
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- 78 RESOLVED: That classes scheduled to begin on the hour or half hour will preserve at least
79 a minimum of a 10-minute passing period between classes where possible;
80 therefore be it
81
- 82 RESOLVED: That additional scheduling patterns with starting times that vary from the
83 hour or half hour time pattern will preserve a minimum 10 minute passing
84 period between classes where possible; therefore be it
85
- 86 RESOLVED: That this provision become effective beginning with the Fall term of 2026.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Instruction Committee
Date: May 14, 2024

Sources.

Academic Senate Resolution [AS-838-17](#): “Resolution on Review of Courses with Condensed Time Schedules.”

Academic Senate Resolution [AS-896-20](#): “Resolution on Online Teaching and Learning.”

California State University Coded Memorandum [AA 2011-14](#): “CSU Definition of Credit Hour” (revised October 2011).

California State University Office of the Chancellor, “Update to Federal Definition of the Student Credit Hour,” official memorandum (December 21, 2020).

Academic Senate Resolution [AS-922-21](#): “Resolution on how Credit Hour Policy Adherence is Assessed and Assured”.