

Paul Rosa

March 21 BOT Statement

On Feb 14, 2017 the Academic Senate passed a resolution asking for changes to be made in policy 1300 “Formulation, Adoption, and Amendment of Policies,” changes that would clarify the legal rights of the faculty through the Academic Senate to formulate curriculum. We were hopeful that when Dr. Keen said he would bring this resolution to the board and advocate for the changes specified by vote in the Senate our revisions would be respected. However, the revised version only utilizes one word, “shall,” from the Senate’s resolution and changes one word, “may,” from the originally passed 1300. So it reads “curriculum shall be recommended by the faculty.”

While this was a crucial change, it is equally clear that the role of the Senate was intentionally left out of the revised document. The Senate is the body which operationalizes the law that allows faculty to formulate curriculum. This is clearly established in the NCCFT contract.

Two things have become clear. First, this policy is undermining the governance process as we have known it at this institution for decades. The Senate is being shut out of its rightful role as a formulator of curriculum. The second is that this initial effort at revision illustrates what, due to 1300 and 1200, shared governance will be at this institution: We will pass our resolutions as a Senate, we will craft thoughtful and effective policies, ones that enable the academic success of our students. and these policies will meet one of three fates: they will be passed on whole to the Board, or they will be ignored, or they will be dismembered, as the President at the time sees fit.