ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE
SUGGESTED FOCI FOR CAL POLY DISCUSSIONS

**Domain 1. Assuring Access**

**Proposition.** Not enough P-12 students are adequately prepared for admission to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines at the university level. The State of California is economically at-risk because of an insufficient high-technology workforce.

**Action.** Cal Poly should more effectively inform students, teachers, counselors and parents of the importance of pursuing a curriculum that will enable admission.

**Some Ideas.** Summer programs. Clear statements of requirements. Outreach initiatives. Emphasize need for preparation in all subjects, not just science and math.

**Domain 2. Connecting to P-12 Schools and to Community Colleges**

**Proposition.** Cal Poly can serve its own needs and support the needs of the P-12 schools and community colleges by forging partnerships and preparing teachers well versed in STEM subjects.

**Action.** Develop teacher preparation programs that include outreach training focused on engagement of first-generation students who do not traditionally attend college, especially technological universities.

**Some Ideas.** Outreach to families as well as students and counselors. Emphasize importance of preparation. Outline career choices. Engage industry. Discuss differing supports of P-12 and CC.

**Domain 3. Fulfilling Commitments to Multiple Stakeholders**

**Proposition.** As a state university, Cal Poly has a commitment to the citizens of California to not only educate new citizens but also to help sustain the businesses, professions, and industries that form the basis of the state economy.

**Action.** Enhance our educational programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and strengthen our applied research efforts to better support the state’s competitiveness.

**Some Ideas.** Expand our project-based education. Strengthen research programs. Celebrate the successes of our students and faculty. Establish a corporate outreach program. Provide Cal Poly education to individuals unable to participate in on-campus courses.

**Domain 4. Ensuring Success in Student Learning**
Proposition. Not enough matriculated students complete their degree requirements and, of those that do, many take too long to do so.

Action. Raise the six-year graduation rate from 69% to 75%. Improve freshman/sophomore retention from 91% to 93%.

Some Ideas. Implement outcomes assessment across the curriculum. Improve advising. Improve scheduling. Utilize project based learning more effectively. Strengthen summer programs. Make student success a concern for every program and faculty member.

Domain 5. Faculty/Staff Excellence to Promote Student Success

Proposition. Cal Poly would be well served by improving the recruiting, development, and retention of faculty and staff.

Action. Reduce course teaching loads especially for faculty engaged in externally funded research. Promote the teacher-scholar faculty model. Increase compensation to achieve parity with comparison universities. Emphasize participation in professional development courses.

Some Ideas. Increase extramural funding. Increase course populations. Provide housing assistance. Develop non-state funding including philanthropic and grant support, college based fees, continuing education, and corporate programs. Interdisciplinary courses of study and research programs. Strengthen research and graduate programs.

Domain 6. Now and in the Future: Campus/System Identity

Proposition. Cal Poly’s core strength and identity as a comprehensive polytechnic university for the entire state should be maintained in a compatible way with those needs and the CSU system identity.

Action. Continue planned growth in concert with the Master Plan. Align that growth with the workforce needs of the state. Aggressively pursue non-state sources of funding including extramural research, philanthropy, and college-based fees needed to maintain and build excellence. Position Cal Poly as one of the essential components of the CSU system.

Some Ideas. Aggressively move towards new curricula such as sustainability, life sciences, and high technology. Maintain Cal Poly focus on excellence.