

Humboldt State University
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To Whom It May Concern,

I affirm that the Sustainability Staff team at Humboldt State University has undertaken the task of reviewing all credits that Cal Poly San Luis Obispo is pursuing for their STARS rating in version 2.1 during August/September of 2019. As a team of four people, we have reviewed reporting fields, attachments, inventories, and URLs for consistency and given our best attempt to confirm and check accuracy of included information. We have submitted feedback for which credits should undergo revision and/or improvement, having identified any typos, broken web links, outliers, duplications, or areas that do not appear to meet our interpretation of STARS criteria. Any credit that was found to have an issue was looked over by a second team member during the first review to confirm an accurate response representative of our team.

Following this first review, we sent our comments via the attached spreadsheet. Cal Poly then responded to our first round of feedback, mitigating many of our concerns and making several updates to their report. We then completed a second review of the changed information to determine whether and how inconsistencies were addressed. In documenting our final findings here and in the attached spreadsheet containing "2nd Review" status and comments, we believe our responsibility to exercise a thorough review is now complete, and leave all remaining updates in the hands of Cal Poly and the AASHE STARS team for final resolution.

Two credits require more information that the institution will upload in October when the survey results are made public (they refer to the same survey that is not yet available to the public):

- PA 5 Assessing Diversity & Equity: Attach actual survey questions or summary results; this credit does not appear to contain new or different information from the first review
- PA 12 Assessing Employee Satisfaction: waiting for additional information from Diversity & Inclusion; if unable to attain, Cal Poly will forego this credit

Last, a few credits merit final guidance from AASHE STARS staff, as we are unsure if our read of technical parameters is correct. We will defer completely to STARS on their guidance to resolve these final

discrepancies and hope that their response will only bolster the technical strength of our own institutional report that we plan to submit during Spring 2020. These include:

- AC 9 Academic Research: STARS should clarify whether and how included research projects meet criteria
- AC 10 Support for Research: STARS should clarify whether RSCA meets criteria
- EN 1 Student Educator's Program: STARS should clarify two components: whether this credit intends to only count "train-the-trainer" type programs (and therefore clarify whether routine outreach activities meet criteria), and how to calculate the number of students served by each program (re: if the education or outreach opportunity is theoretically available to any student, should 100% of students be claimed here?)
- EN 6 Assessing Sustainability Culture: STARS should confirm whether the included survey has a sufficient focus on "sustainability values, behaviors, beliefs, and awareness" to qualify
- EN 9 Staff Professional Development: STARS should confirm whether the duplication of content (training slides that were also submitted for EN 8 Employee Orientation and Book Club program that was submitted for AC 7 Incentives for Developing Courses) meet criteria
- EN 10 Community Partnerships: STARS should confirm whether it is appropriate to duplicate PCV program for this credit since it was also submitted for EN 3
- OP 2 Outdoor Air Quality: STARS should confirm whether the included inventory at the county level (as opposed to at the campus level) is sufficient to meet criteria and if yes, whether a report date of 2012 meets reporting requirements; STARS and/or STARS liaison may also want to confirm/explain in the description what level of involvement Cal Poly SLO had in the County's inventory, if there is a segment of the county inventory specifically on Cal Poly, and how the County's inventory is being used to inform Cal Poly's operations
- OP 11 Sustainable Procurement: STARS should confirm whether included description for IT products and services meets criteria
- PA 3 Governance: STARS should confirm whether draft Master Plan 2035 and business community serving on Foundation Board qualifies to meet criteria
- IN 25 Innovation B Student Sustainability Leadership Summits & Retreats: STARS should confirm whether this is truly suited as an Innovation credit, or whether it is duplicative of information submitted with EN 1 as a peer-to-peer education program

HSU has been pleased to collaborate in this review process for Cal Poly, as it not only forced our team to be intimately reintroduced to the STARS framework and technical parameters prior to beginning our

third iteration of the assessment for our own campus, but also hopefully provided useful feedback to the Cal Poly team so that their report is the strongest version it can possibly be. It seems that with these final revisions and resolutions, their STARS report will be an immeasurably useful tool for other institutions to mine best practices and case studies due to an exemplary focus on sustainability.

Sincerely,

The Humboldt State University Sustainability Staff Team

Katie Koscielak, Sustainability Analyst

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Andrea Alstone, Energy Planner & Analyst

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