WST Resolution from the Writing Requirements Committee
Referred to BOGS on April 28, 2014

Whereas S95-5 states that “demonstration of competence in written
communication shall be a requirement for graduation with any bachelor's degree”,
and that students may satisfy that requirement “either by passing an approved
course or the examination designed to pass the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment
Requirement (GWAR), an examination known as the Writing Skills Test (WST) at
San José State University; and

Whereas the Writing Skills Test requires an essay component and a separate
objective (i.e., multiple choice) component contracted out to ACT, Inc., and costs
$13.75 per exam to be scored by ACT, Inc.; and

Whereas ACT, Inc. takes 14-20 business days to report scoring on the objective
portion while the graders from SJSU take only 5-10 business days to grade the essay
exam; and

Whereas the ACT, Inc. delay in student scoring results in approximately 1200-1500
students annually not being able to register for 100W and SJSU Studies courses and
therefore not being able to progress to degree; and

Whereas S95-5 states that the Writing Requirements Committee (WRC) “shall
designate the score on the Writing Skills Test necessary to satisfy the Written
Communication II requirement” (D.1); and

Whereas S95-5 states that “the specific form and content of the Writing Skills Test
and the minimum passing score shall be approved by the Board of General Studies
on the recommendation of the Writing Requirements Committee” (D.2); therefore

Be it resolved that the Writing Requirements Committee recommends that SJSU
eliminate the ACT, Inc. objective portion of the Writing Skills Test; and

Be it also resolved that the Writing Requirements Committee, in consultation with
appropriate units on campus (e.g., Testing Services, Undergraduate Studies, etc.), be
charged with determining an implementation plan for the change in the WST,
including the development of a timeline; and

Be it also resolved that the Writing Requirements Committee provide a separate
recommendation to the Board of General Studies regarding a recommended passing
score required on the WST to satisfy the Written Communication II requirement as
per S95-5.

On November 1, 2013, the Writing Requirements Committee voted
unanimously to eliminate the ACT, Inc. objective portion of the WST.