At its meeting of December 9, 2002, the Academic Senate passed the following Senate Management Recommendation presented by Marshall Goodman for the Executive Committee.

SENATE MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION
CREATING A TASK FORCE ON AN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FEE

Whereas, San Jose State University is dedicated to the values of quality and access; and

Whereas, state support has comprised a smaller and smaller portion of the SJSU budget, critical needs have gone unaddressed, harming SJSU's ability to deliver quality; and

Whereas, the university's commitment to access is also now threatened by current and future state budget cuts, combined with projected increases in enrollment; and

Whereas, recently, students at CSU San Luis Obispo approved a variety of fee increases in order to fund new equipment, faculty hires, course offerings, and other academic needs; and

Whereas, student fees in the CSU have not increased in eight years and remain among the lowest in the entire nation; and

Whereas, the CSU loses significant contributions to student financial aid packages from the federal and state governments due to the presently low student fees; and

Whereas, student fee increases normally are not imposed without student approval through the mechanism of a student fee referendum; be it therefore

Resolved that the SJSU Academic Senate authorizes the creation of a temporary task force, with the charge and membership indicated below, to explore the concept of an academic excellence fee; be it further

Resolved that the Senate Executive Committee and theProvost shall jointly select the chair and the faculty membership of this committee; be it further

Resolved that if the task force determines such a fee is worth pursuing, the task force should present their recommendations, including the use of the fee, to the Senate and, if supported, attempt to place a fee referendum on the student ballot no later than Fall 2003; be it finally
Resolved that the task force shall be dissolved 30 days after a) its issuing a written finding that no academic excellence fee should be pursued, or b) the date of the first student referendum on an academic excellence fee.

Charge:

1) Consult as widely as possible to solicit campus input regarding academic needs and projected costs to meet those needs.
2) Consult with students (perhaps utilizing a professional firm) to determine the feasibility of an academic excellence fee, including what services students would be willing to pay for and how much they would be willing to pay.
3) Determine whether or not to proceed with the idea of placing an academic excellence fee referendum before the student body, whether on a university-wide or college-by-college basis. Such a proposal should include a detailed explanation of how funds collected would be spent.
4) Work with student leaders, student organizations and others to ensure the passage of such a fee, if proposed.

Membership

3 students – the Associated Students Director of Student Fee Affairs; 1 other member of the A.S. Board of Directors; and 1 graduate student
2 faculty from the Senate Executive Committee
6 faculty from other colleges,
1 college dean
Dean of the Library or designee
Vice President for Student Affairs or designee
AVP, Undergraduate Studies or designee
AVP, Graduate Studies & Research or designee
Director of Academic Services or designee
AVP, Institutional Planning & Research (non-voting member)