

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY  
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE  
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

**SS-F21-1 Sense of the Senate Resolution, Honoring and  
Thanking Coach Sage Hopkins for his Service to the  
University**

**Legislative history:** On October 11, 2021, the Academic Senate approved the following resolution presented from the floor of the Senate by Senator Chris Jochim.

**Sense of the Senate Resolution  
Honoring and Thanking Coach Sage Hopkins for his  
Service to the University**

- Whereas** Coach Sage Hopkins is in his 17th season as the head coach of the San Jose State University women's swimming and diving program; and
- Whereas** Coach Sage Hopkins was named the Western Athletic Conference women's swimming Coach of the Year for 2011-12. The 2011-12 team became the first to win a women's swimming and diving conference championship in school history; and
- Whereas** Under Coach Sage Hopkins leadership, as of Fall 2021, Spartan swimmers have had unprecedented success in the classroom, with the program being named a College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America team in each of the last 15 semesters.; and
- Whereas** Coach Sage Hopkins was able to withstand adversity, in the first instance, during a three-year period when the team had no permanent facility for holding workouts and hosting competitions, because the new Student Recreation and Aquatic Center (SRAC) was under construction, after which, in 2019-20, Hopkins and the Spartans posted a 3-0-1 record in dual meets in the new pool and finished 5-2-1 overall on the season; and
- Whereas** Coach Sage Hopkins was able to withstand adversity, in the second instance, during a ten-year period (2010-2020), after he had assisted women swimmers to file a Title IX sexual harassment complaint with the Office of Equal Opportunity at SJSU, and subsequently sought to protect his women athletes from further abuse as well as to maintain detailed written records of his and their experience over the years; and

- Whereas** Coach Sage Hopkins, during the ten-year period, engaged in heroic perseverance in the face of repeated dismissive, accusatory, and even retaliatory responses to his efforts to restrict an athletic trainer’s abuse of his athletes and to initiate a proper investigation into the original as well as later allegations of abuse; and
- Whereas** Coach Sage Hopkins ultimately succeeded in attracting attention to various acts of abuse and retaliation in 2019 (November), when he provided over 300 pages of evidence to the University’s Title IX Coordinator as well as to the NCAA, and, in 2020, when he filed a Whistleblower complaint regarding retaliation with the CSU (February 24, 2020); and
- Whereas** Coach Sage Hopkins courageous actions, ultimately, resulted in a US Department of Justice investigation report (September 21, 2021 Summary of Findings) that called for unprecedented monetary awards to women athletes who had suffered sexual abuse, major changes in the structure and operations of the University’s Title IX Office; and a request that “SJSU’s President will express appreciation, in writing, for Employee A’s [Sage Hopkins] efforts to protect Student-Athletes from Sexual Harassment by the Athletic Trainer” (Resolution Agreement, p. 17); and
- Whereas** Sense of the Senate Resolution SS S21-4 resolved, in part, that the University should “foster a climate in which those who report suspected cases of abuse are supported”; therefore, be it
- Resolved** That Coach Sage Hopkins be recognized for his unusually distinguished service to the University, and his courageous, compassionate, and reasoned contributions to the careers of the student athletes he serves, and
- Resolved** That the Academic Senate of San José State University wishes Coach Sage Hopkins the best in all his efforts to engender student success in his role as a Coach of Swimming and Diving, and
- Resolved** That the Academic Senate of San José State University commend, honor, and thank Coach Sage Hopkins for his many years of inspiration, leadership, encouragement, support, and guidance to student athletes and the University community as a whole.